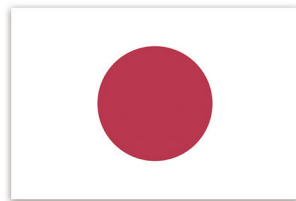


ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation

1997—2022

In Commemoration of the 25th Anniversary of
APT Cooperation



ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation

1997—2022

In Commemoration of the 25th Anniversary of
APT Cooperation

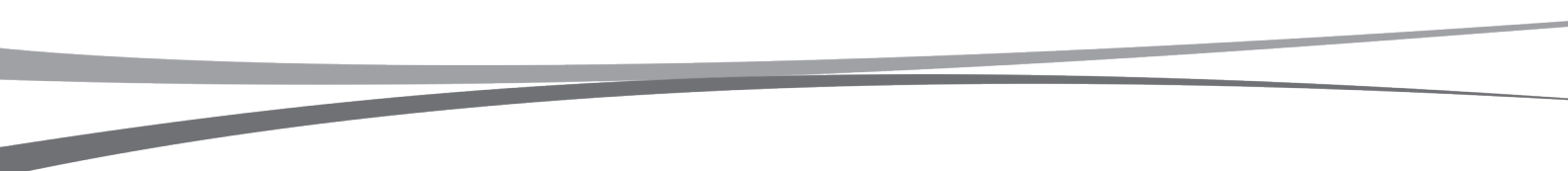


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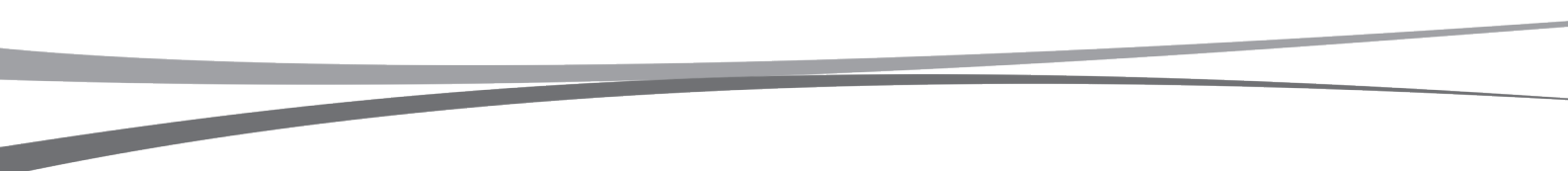
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I. Key Documents Guiding the Cooperation



I. Key Documents Guiding the Cooperation

Joint Statement on East Asia Cooperation

Manila, 28 November 1999

1. The Heads of State/Government of Brunei Darussalam, Kingdom of Cambodia, People's Republic of China, Republic of Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Union of Myanmar, Republic of the Philippines, Republic of Singapore, Kingdom of Thailand, and Socialist Republic of Vietnam, and the Special Representative of the Prime Minister of Malaysia at the ASEAN+3 Summit in Manila, expressed satisfaction with the rapidly developing relations among their countries.
2. They noted the bright prospects for enhanced interaction and closer linkages in East Asia and recognized the fact that this growing interaction has helped increase opportunities for cooperation and collaboration with each other, thereby strengthening the elements essential, for the promotion of peace, stability and prosperity in the region.
3. Mindful of the challenges and opportunities in the new millennium, as well as the growing regional interdependence in the age of globalization and information, they agreed to promote dialogue and to deepen and consolidate collective efforts with a view to advancing mutual understanding, trust, good neighborliness and friendly relations, peace, stability and prosperity in East Asia and the world.
4. In this context, they underscored their commitment to handling their mutual relations in accordance with the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, the Five Principles of Peaceful Co-existence, the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia, and the universally recognized principles of international law.
5. Recalling the decision of the Leaders of ASEAN, China, Japan and the Republic of Korea at the 6th ASEAN Summit in Hanoi in December 1998, on the importance of holding a regular meeting among them and recognizing the ongoing efforts of the East Asia Vision Group, they agreed to enhance this dialogue process and strengthen cooperation with a view to advancing East Asian collaboration in priority areas of shared interest and concern even as they look to future challenges.

6. In this context, they underscored their commitment to build upon existing consultative and cooperative processes, as well as joint efforts, in various levels and in various areas, in particular:

6.1 Economic and Social Fields

- (1) in **economic cooperation**, they agreed to strengthen efforts in accelerating trade, investments, technology transfer, encouraging technical cooperation in information technology and e-commerce, promotion of industrial and agricultural cooperation, strengthening of SMEs, promotion of tourism, encouraging active participation in the development of growth areas in East Asia, including the Mekong River Basin; to promote broader private sector participation in economic cooperation activities through considering networking initiatives such as an East Asian Business Council and industry-specific business fora for major regional industries; and to continue structural reform and to strengthen cooperation since these are essential to sustained economic growth and indispensable safeguards against the recurrence of economic crises in East Asia.
- (2) in **monetary and financial cooperation**, they agreed to strengthen policy dialogue, coordination and collaboration on the financial, monetary and fiscal issues of common interest, focusing initially on issues related to macroeconomic risk management, enhancing corporate governance, monitoring regional capital flows, strengthening banking and financial systems, reforming the international financial architecture, and enhancing self-help and support mechanisms in East Asia through the ASEAN+3 Framework, including the ongoing dialogue and cooperation mechanism of the ASEAN+3 finance and central bank leaders and officials;
- (3) in **social and human resources development**, they agreed on the importance of social and human resources development for sustained growth of East Asia by alleviating economic and social disparities within and among East Asian countries. In this regard, they agreed to heighten cooperative efforts in such areas as the implementation of the ASEAN HRD Initiative by establishing a Human Resource Development Fund and the ASEAN Action Plan on Social Safety Nets;
- (4) in the area of **scientific and technical development**, they agreed to strengthen cooperation in these areas to enhance capacity-building for the promotion of economic development and sustained growth in East Asia;
- (5) in the **cultural and information area**, they agreed to strengthen regional cooperation in projecting an Asian point of view to the rest of the world and in intensifying efforts in enhancing people-to-people contacts and in promoting

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cultural understanding, goodwill and peace, focusing on the strengths and virtues of East Asian cultures and building upon the recognition that the region partly derives its strength from its diversity;

- (6) in **development cooperation**, they agreed on the importance of generating and extending support for ASEAN efforts in the implementation of the Hanoi Plan of Action to advance economic and sustainable development, technical capability, and the standard of living of the people with the view to fulfilling long-term economic and political stability in the region;

6.2 Political and Other Fields

- (1) in the **political-security area**, they agreed to continuing dialogue, coordination, and cooperation to increase mutual understanding and trust towards forging lasting peace and stability in East Asia;
 - (2) in the area of **transnational issues**, they agreed to strengthen cooperation in addressing common concerns in this area in East Asia.
7. Noting how their collective efforts and cooperation agenda support and complement the initiatives of various multilateral fora, the Leaders agreed to intensify coordination and cooperation in various international and regional fora such as the UN, WTO, APEC, ASEM, and the ARF, as well as in regional and international financial institutions.
 8. Determined to realize East Asia cooperation in the various areas, they tasked the relevant Ministers to oversee through existing mechanisms, particularly their senior officials, the implementation of this Joint Statement. They agreed to the holding of an ASEAN+3 Foreign Ministers Meeting in the margins of the Post Ministerial Conference in Bangkok, Thailand in the year 2000 to review the progress of the implementation of this Joint Statement.
 9. Finally, they expressed greater resolve and confidence in further deepening and broadening East Asia cooperation towards generating concrete results with tangible impact on the quality of life of the people of East Asia and stability in the region in the 21st century.

Kuala Lumpur Declaration on the ASEAN Plus Three Summit

Kuala Lumpur, 12 December 2005

WE, the Heads of State/Government of the Member Countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), and the People's Republic of China, Japan, and the Republic of Korea, on the occasion of the 9th ASEAN Plus Three Summit on 12 December 2005 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia;

REAFFIRMING the need for a peaceful, stable and prosperous East Asian regional environment through mutual solidarity and concerted efforts;

FURTHER REAFFIRMING our commitment to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia and other universally recognised principles of international law which will serve as the basis of norms governing state-to-state relations;

RECALLING the 1999 Joint Statement on East Asia Cooperation which sets out the principles and purposes of East Asia cooperation;

REITERATING our common resolve to realise an East Asian community as a long-term goal that would contribute to the maintenance of regional and global peace and security, prosperity and progress;

CONVINCED that the ASEAN Plus Three process will continue to be the main vehicle in achieving that goal, with ASEAN as the driving force and with the active participation of the ASEAN Plus Three countries in order to promote a sense of shared ownership;

RECOGNISING the importance of ASEAN integration and the ASEAN Community towards community building in the region and the continued support of the Plus Three countries for ASEAN's efforts;

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FURTHER RECOGNISING the important role played by the ASEAN Plus One processes to the overall cooperation within the ASEAN Plus Three framework;

CONFIDENT that the growing interactions among the ASEAN Plus Three countries will help promote greater dialogue and collective efforts to both harness opportunities and meet the challenges posed by a fast-changing and globalising world;

ACKNOWLEDGING with satisfaction the steady progress achieved to date in the ASEAN Plus Three cooperation in all areas has brought about mutual benefits and closer linkages, thus contributing to the community building in East Asia;

ENCOURAGED by the progress in the implementation of the short-term, and medium and long-term measures proposed in the East Asia Study Group (EASG) Final Report, which we endorsed in November 2002 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia;

WELCOMING the convening of the First East Asia Summit in Kuala Lumpur on 14 December 2005;

DO HEREBY DECLARE:

We will continue to hold the ASEAN Plus Three Summit annually in conjunction with the ASEAN Summit to guide and provide political momentum to East Asian community building under the ASEAN Plus Three cooperation.

We will commence collaborative efforts to prepare a second Joint Statement on East Asia Cooperation on the tenth anniversary of the ASEAN Plus Three process in 2007 in order to consolidate existing cooperation and to set forth the future direction for the cooperation and East Asia community building, and task our Ministers to coordinate and undertake the necessary follow-up.

We will continue to encourage and support cooperation under the ASEAN Plus One processes to further contribute to the overall cooperation within the ASEAN Plus Three framework, which will form an integral part of the overall regional architecture in a complementary manner with other regional fora and processes.

We will speed up the implementation of the short-term, and medium and long-term measures of the EASG Final Report.

We will continue to support ASEAN integration, particularly in narrowing the development gap in order to realise the ASEAN Community and at the same time contributing to the building of an East Asian community as the long-term goal.

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We will enhance people-to-people exchange aimed at developing a "we" feeling.

We will encourage the sharing of ideas through greater interaction between students, academicians, researchers, artists, media, and youths among countries in East Asia.

We will conduct regular exchange of intellectuals, members of think tanks, religious personalities and scholars, which will benefit East Asia and the world through deeper knowledge and understanding so as to fight intolerance and improve understanding among cultures and civilisations.

We will enhance and strengthen the various mechanisms crucial for the development of ASEAN Plus Three cooperation, including the ASEAN Plus Three Unit in the ASEAN Secretariat.

SIGNED at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on the Twelfth Day of December in the Year Two Thousand and Five.

For Brunei Darussalam:

HAJI HASSANAL BOLKIAH
Sultan of Brunei Darussalam

For the Kingdom of Cambodia:

SAMDECH HUN SEN
Prime Minister

For the Republic of Indonesia:

DR. SUSILO BAMBANG YUDHOYONO
President

For the Lao People's Democratic Republic:

BOUNNHANG VORACHITH
Prime Minister

For Malaysia:

DATO' SERI ABDULLAH AHMAD BADAWI
Prime Minister

For the Union of Myanmar:

GENERAL SOE WIN
Prime Minister

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For the Republic of the Philippines:

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

President

For the Republic of Singapore:

LEE HSIEN LOONG

Prime Minister

For the Kingdom of Thailand:

DR. THAKSIN SHINAWATRA

Prime Minister

For the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam:

PHAN VAN KHAI

Prime Minister

For the People's Republic of China:

WEN JIABAO

Premier

For Japan:

JUNICHIRO KOIZUMI

Prime Minister

For the Republic of Korea:

ROH MOO-HYUN

President

Second Joint Statement on East Asia Cooperation Building on the Foundations of ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation

Singapore, 20 November 2007

I. Introduction

1. We, the Heads of State/Government of the Member Countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the People's Republic of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea, gathered on 20 November 2007 in Singapore on the occasion of the 10th Anniversary of the ASEAN Plus Three cooperation.
2. We noted that the rapidly changing international environment and globalisation brought forth both opportunities and challenges. We agreed that driven by converging interests, aspirations and commitment to peace, stability, cooperation and prosperity, the prospects for a resilient, open, innovative and competitive East Asia are bright.
3. In this context, we underscored our commitment to handling our mutual relations in accordance with the principles and purposes of the UN Charter, the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation (TAC) in Southeast Asia and the universally recognised principles of international laws.
4. We reviewed our achievements of the past ten years, consolidated existing cooperation and set forth the future direction for ASEAN Plus Three cooperation, which will continue to support ASEAN integration in order to realise the ASEAN Community, and at the same time, contributing to the building of an East Asian community as a long-term goal.

II. Looking Back at a Decade of Growth and Expansion (1997-2007)

1. We recalled the 1999 Joint Statement on East Asia Cooperation, the 2001 Report of the East Asia Vision Group, the 2002 Report of the East Asia Study Group, the 2005 Kuala Lumpur Declaration on the ASEAN Plus Three Summit, and all other relevant documents that have been signed, adopted, noted and issued by the ASEAN Plus Three cooperation.
2. We noted with satisfaction the significant progress in the ASEAN Plus Three

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cooperation, which have broadened and deepened into twenty areas of cooperation in the last ten years. We also recognised the important contribution of sectoral bodies, the East Asia Study Group and the ASEAN Plus Three Unit of the ASEAN Secretariat towards achieving this progress.

3. We recalled that the ASEAN Plus Three process began in the wake of the Asian financial crises of 1997-1998. We were gratified that the ASEAN Plus Three process had brought about mutual benefits and closer linkages among the ASEAN Plus Three countries.

III. Looking Forward to a Decade of Consolidation and Closer Integration (2007-2017)

- A. Defining the Objectives and Roles of the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation in the Emerging Regional Architecture
 1. We reaffirmed that the ASEAN Plus Three Process would remain as the main vehicle towards the long-term goal of building an East Asian community, with ASEAN as the driving force.
 2. We appreciated the significant contributions made by the ASEAN-China, ASEAN-Japan and ASEAN-ROK processes to the overall cooperation within the ASEAN Plus Three framework. We recognised and welcomed the continued commitment and contributions of the Plus Three countries in supporting ASEAN's goals of building an ASEAN Community.
 3. We recognised and supported the mutually reinforcing and complementary roles of the ASEAN Plus Three process and such regional fora as EAS, ARF, APEC and ASEM to promote East Asian community building.
 4. We reiterated that East Asian integration is an open, transparent, inclusive, and forward-looking process for mutual benefits and support internationally shared values to achieve peace, stability, democracy and prosperity in the region. Guided by the vision for durable peace and shared prosperity in East Asia and beyond, we will stand guided by new economic flows, evolving strategic interactions and the belief to continue to engage all interested countries and organisations towards the realisation of an open regional architecture capable of adapting to changes and new dynamism.
 5. We reaffirmed our support to ASEAN's goals of building an open, dynamic and resilient ASEAN Community by 2015, in the security, economic and socio-cultural pillars, and narrowing the development gap within the ASEAN Member Countries. We welcomed the signing of the ASEAN Charter and shared the view that a united and resilient ASEAN is essential to ensuring regional stability and prosperity.

B. Rationalising and Enhancing ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation

We agreed that the future scope of ASEAN Plus Three cooperation would include, but not be limited to, the following areas:

1. That in **Political and Security Cooperation**, we will expand and strengthen dialogue and cooperation through the development of human resources, conduct of regular security dialogue and exchanges and other capacity-building measures to ensure that our countries live at peace with one another and with the world at large in a just, democratic and harmonious environment.
2. That in **Economic and Financial Cooperation**, we agreed to push ahead to promote economic growth and sustainable development towards a more prosperous East Asia with a free flow of goods and services and easier movement of capital and labour by promoting economic liberalisation, economic integration, transparency and free trade consistent with WTO agreements, pursuing structural reforms, encouraging investment, promoting transfer and upgrading of technology, protecting intellectual property rights, improving research and policy-making capacity, multilateralising the Chiang Mai Initiative and strengthening the Asian Bond Markets Initiative.
3. That in **Energy, Environment, Climate Change and Sustainable Development Cooperation**, we reaffirmed the need to take an effective approach to the interrelated issues of climate change, energy security and the environment. On energy security, we will put particular emphasis on improving energy efficiency, diversification of energy supply and development of new and renewable sources of energy. On sustainable development cooperation, we will put particular emphasis on mitigation of and adaptation to climate change, as well as compatibility between environmental protection, and sustained economic growth and social development. We reaffirmed our commitment to the common goal of stabilising atmospheric greenhouse gas concentrations in the long run, at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system, and agreed to participate actively in the process of developing an effective, comprehensive, and equitable post-2012 international climate change arrangement, in line with the principles of equity, flexibility, effectiveness, and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities.
4. That in **Socio-cultural and Development Cooperation**, we agreed to work towards increasing efforts in eradicating poverty and achieving the Millennium Development Goals in East Asia, narrowing the development gap through supporting the Vientiane Action Programme and Initiative for ASEAN Integration, supporting sub-regional development initiatives, enhancing cultural cooperation, education collaboration, deepening mutual understanding and forging a sense of an East Asian identity and

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consciousness, people-to-people exchanges, addressing social issues such as gender, children, prevention of infectious diseases and natural disaster risk reduction, and encouraging policy consultation and coordination with NGOs to foster civic participation and state-civil society partnerships in addressing social problems.

5. That in **Institutional Support and Relations with Wider Cooperative Frameworks**, we agreed to further expand our cooperation and refocus our resources on the cooperative sectors in order to fully utilise the advantage deriving from the ASEAN Plus Three cooperation. To this end, we will establish an ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Fund, and agreed to strengthen the ASEAN Plus Three Unit of the ASEAN Secretariat and enhance cooperation projects through rationalisation and pursuing synergy. We further agreed to promote East Asian regional cooperation in collaboration with those conducted under regional and global frameworks.

IV. Closing

The purpose of this Joint Statement will be realised through the implementation of concrete priority activities and flagship projects as indicated in the attached Work Plan. Relevant sectoral bodies shall implement the Work Plan and incorporate it in their respective programs and plans of action. Progress in the implementation of the Work Plan will be monitored by the ASEAN Plus Three Directors-General and reported to the annual ASEAN Plus Three Ministerial Meeting and ASEAN Plus Three Summit. The Work Plan will be subject to a mid-term review and may be revised for purposes of more efficiently and effectively accomplishing the purposes of this Joint Statement.

ASEAN Plus Three Leaders' Joint Statement on the Commemoration of the 15th Anniversary of the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation

Phnom Penh, 19 November 2012

1. We, the Heads of State/Government of the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the People's Republic of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea, gathered in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, on 19 November 2012, to commemorate the 15th Anniversary of the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation.
2. The ASEAN Plus Three Commemorative Summit was chaired by Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo HUN SEN, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia. The Heads of State/ Government of ASEAN Member States, the People's Republic of China, Japan, and the Republic of Korea attended the meeting. The Secretary-General of ASEAN also attended the Meeting.
3. We reviewed the achievements of the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation over the past 15 years, and discussed its future direction. We took note with satisfaction of the fast growing and deepening of cooperation in all areas of cooperation, in particular politics and security, economy, finance, connectivity, food security, energy, environment, health and pandemic diseases, culture, tourism, science, technology and innovation, information and communication technology, poverty eradication, disaster management, and youth and education.
4. We acknowledged that the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation played an indispensable role in promoting East Asian unity and coordination, deepening regional economic integration and expanding horizon for common development. We have successfully tackled the global financial crisis and preserved economic and financial stability, thus becoming the most vibrant region in the global economy. In light of the profound and complex changes in the world and the multiple pressures to maintain sustainable development of the region, we agreed to come together and work collectively to meet the challenges, make good use of the well-established ASEAN Plus Three cooperation mechanisms and give full play to our advantages.

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5. We noted with appreciation the substantive progress of the implementation of the Second Joint Statement on the East Asia Cooperation and the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Work Plan (2007-2017) which provided strategic guidance for the future direction of the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation. We welcomed the decision of the ASEAN Plus Three Foreign Ministers' Meeting in July 2012 to conduct a Mid-Term Review of the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Work Plan. In order to implement the Work Plan effectively, we supported the strengthening of the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Fund (APTCF).
6. We reaffirmed our strong commitment to deepen and broaden the ASEAN Plus Three process, as guided by, inter alia, the 1999 Joint Statement on the East Asia Cooperation and the 2007 Second Joint Statement on the East Asia Cooperation, to serve as a main vehicle towards the long-term goal of building an East Asian community and expressed our continued support for the central role of ASEAN in the evolving regional architecture. We reiterated that the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation would continue to support the realization of the ASEAN Community and pave the way towards regional integration.
7. We realized the importance of maintaining and enhancing peace and stability in the region as indispensable conditions for development and progress. We stressed the importance of respecting for the right of each country to independently choose its development path, and the need to intensify and enhance efforts to promote common values and norms, such as good governance, rule of law, as well as promotion and protection of human rights. We agreed to further strengthen security cooperation, particularly to deal with emerging challenges to peace and stability in both traditional and non-traditional security dimensions.
8. We are committed to further strengthening cooperation and dialogue in political-security area as guided by the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Work Plan in order to address emerging regional and global issues as well as to maintain peace, stability and prosperity in the region. We agreed to continue our discussions on establishing regional institutional arrangements in areas, such as law enforcement, disaster management, combating transnational crime and the prevention and control of diseases. We will continue to: (i) promote mutual trust and understanding through increasing exchanges between officials; and (ii) enhance technical assistance and capacity-building in support of efforts to address traditional and non-traditional security issues in a substantive manner.
9. In light of the shrinking external demand we were confronted with, we agreed to strengthen the internal drivers for East Asia's growth, by boosting demand within the

region and promoting intra-regional economic development. We acknowledged the importance of maintaining strong trade relations between ASEAN and the Plus Three countries which had strengthened the region's ability and resilience in dealing with the financial and economic crisis since the inception of the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation. To this end, we called upon the relevant ministers to further strengthen and deepen existing ASEAN Plus One Free Trade Agreements with Plus Three countries. We also urged business communities in the region to take full advantage of the opportunities of these FTAs.

10. Due to the rapid regional and global developments, we stressed the importance of achieving a comprehensive, high-quality and mutually beneficial economic partnership agreement in this region in accordance with the Guiding Principles and Objectives for Negotiating the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) approved by the ASEAN Economic Ministers and their counterparts from ASEAN's FTA Partners in August 2012, We therefore welcomed the progress in the preparation work aiming at the official launch of the RCEP negotiations in November 2012, in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, which reflects the concrete cooperation among the participating countries to strengthen regional economic integration.
11. We highly appreciated the progress of regional financial cooperation, in particular the Chiang Mai Initiative Multilateralisation (CMIM) as a part of the regional financial safety net. In this regard, we welcomed the progress made at the ASEAN Plus Three Finance Ministers' and Central Bank Governors' Meeting held on 3 May 2012, in Manila, to strengthen the CMIM including by doubling its total size from USD120 billion to USD 240 billion, increasing the IMF de-linked portion to 30% in 2012, and introducing a crisis prevention facility "CMIM Precautionary Line (CMIM-PL)". We welcomed the establishment of the ASEAN+3 Macroeconomic Research Office (AMRO) and stressed the importance of strengthening its capacity as an independent regional surveillance unit.
12. We also highly appreciated efforts to utilise regional savings for regional investments through the Asian Bond Market Initiative (ABMI), including the Credit Guarantee and Investment Facility (CGIF), to promote the development of local currency denominated bond markets and enhancing macroeconomic and financial stability. We welcomed the adoption of the New ABMI Roadmap+ to produce tangible and concrete outcome on the nine priorities, among others, implementation of guarantee programme of the CGIF and the ASEAN Plus Three Bond Markets Forum (ABMF) activities including the Common Bond Issuance Programme. We also welcomed the initial research findings on priority areas of future regional cooperation. We tasked the relevant Ministers to continue to

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- expeditiously implement the initiative related to regional financial cooperation.
13. We reaffirmed the importance of the ASEAN Chair's participation in the G-20 Summit on a regular basis with a view to reflecting ASEAN as a relevant and responsible regional organization to the global economic and financial cooperation. We also welcomed the substantive outcomes of the G-20 Summit which was held on 18-19 June 2012, in Los Cabos, Mexico.
 14. We further welcomed the establishment of the United Nations Secretary-General High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, in which the President of Indonesia is one of its Co-Chairs as a representation of the region.
 15. We agreed to further enhance the cooperation in food security. We supported the important role of the ASEAN Plus Three Emergency Rice Reserve (APTERR) Agreement, which came into force on 12 July 2012 to serve as a permanent mechanism to ensure sustainable and integrated food security in the region, and welcomed the proposed creation of an ASEAN Plus Three Food Security Information System. We tasked our relevant ministers to explore the possibility of establishing mechanisms for other kinds of food. We supported the continued convening of the annual ASEAN Plus Three Food Security Cooperation Roundtable. We also decided to strengthen regional efforts to enhance cooperation in agricultural sector in order to increase agricultural production and productivity, taking into account the diversity of environmental conditions and positive externalities of agriculture. In this regard, we welcomed steady implementation of ASEAN Food Security Information System (AFSIS) and expected its future development based on the Proposal of Post-2012 AFSIS.
 16. We looked forward to the signing of Memorandum of Cooperation on ASEAN Plus Three Tourism Cooperation, which will be one of the key instruments to strengthen good relationship and cooperation in tourism industry between ASEAN and the Plus Three countries.
 17. We agreed to forge cooperation in education and welcomed the convening of the First ASEAN Plus Three Education Ministers' Meeting (AEMM+3) held on 4 July 2012, in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, and the adoption of the ASEAN Plus Three Action Plan on Education 2010-2017. We appreciated concrete plans, proposals and future direction contained therein which will support the ASEAN Community as well as East Asian community building process through capacity building, improvement of the quality of education, strengthening regional competitiveness, promotion of educational exchange, providing more education opportunities and nurturing innovation in the region.
 18. We acknowledged the steady progress achieved in the field of cultural cooperation. We further noted the constructive role that the ASEAN Plus Three Ministers Responsible

for Culture and Arts (AMCA+3) cooperation mechanism had played in facilitating closer cooperation in the areas of cultural heritage protection, cultural human resource development and cultural industries, as well as promoting dialogues and sharing best practices in the implementation of arts and culture policies. We welcomed the endorsement of the Work Plan on Enhancing ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation in Culture by the Ministers at the Fifth AMCA+3 Meeting held on 24 May 2012, in Singapore.

19. We further emphasized the need to strengthen cooperation in the information sector to ensure that multi-platform flows of information are in place to raise awareness of ASEAN and promote mutual understanding among East Asian people. We noted that the Work Plan on Enhancing the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Through Information and Media (2012 – 2017) has been endorsed and looked forward to the successful implementation of strategic activities listed therein.
20. We welcomed the areas of collaboration in health as detailed in the Joint Statement of the Fifth ASEAN Plus Three Health Ministers' Meeting (AHMM+3) held on 6 July 2012, in Phuket, Thailand, and as aligned with the ASEAN Strategic Framework on Health Development (2010-2015) with specific focus on Communicable and Emerging Infectious Disease, Pandemic Preparedness and Response, Traditional Medicine, Universal Health Coverage, Non-Communicable Diseases, and Maternal and Child Health.
21. We noted with satisfaction the plan for operationalisation of the Luang Prabang Declaration on the ASEAN Plus Three Civil Service Cooperation through pilot projects for the improvement of civil service efficiency, competency and accountability. We also welcomed the convening of the ASEAN Plus Three Heads of Civil Service and ACCSM+3 Joint Technical Working Group Meetings for the first time on 2 October 2012, in Putrajaya, Malaysia.
22. We reaffirmed the importance of the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation in enhancing the well-being and livelihood of the vulnerable groups in the region. In this regard, we agreed to deepen and widen the cooperation under the ASEAN Plus Three Ministers' Meeting on Social Welfare and Development (AMMSWD+3), ASEAN Plus Three Labour Ministers' Meeting (ALMM+3), ASEAN Plus Three Senior Officials' Meeting on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (SOMRDPE+3) and ASEAN Plus Three Committee on Women (ACW+3).
23. We acknowledged the important role of the ASEAN-Japan Centre, the ASEAN-Korea Centre and the ASEAN-China Centre in promoting trade, investment, tourism, education and cultural exchanges between ASEAN and the Plus Three countries.
24. We recognized the importance of promoting an enabling environment for joint research,

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exchange programmes, development and sharing of educational content for the future scientists in the ASEAN Plus Three region. In this regard, we noted with appreciation the continuing programmes and opportunities provided by the ASEAN Plus Three Center for the Gifted in Science (ACGS) in the Republic of Korea, which are aimed at nurturing the gifted students in science as well as the science teachers in the region.

25. We reaffirmed the importance of effective and timely implementation of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) to enhance intra-ASEAN linkages, strengthen competitiveness and narrow the development gaps. In this regard, ASEAN highly appreciated the continuing support of the Plus Three countries for the realization of the MPAC. We expressed our support to the enhancement of connectivity under the ASEAN Plus Three framework and adopted the Leaders' Statement on ASEAN Plus Three Partnership on Connectivity in order to prioritize connectivity in all areas of the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation and to further promote connectivity between ASEAN and the Plus Three countries.
26. We reaffirmed our commitment to strengthen efforts to combat terrorism and transnational crime linked to the enhancement of connectivity within the East Asia region. In this regard, we agreed to facilitate the cooperation under the ASEAN Plus Three Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (AMMTC+3).
27. We underscored the importance of promoting energy diversification, information exchanges, research and sharing of experiences on new, and renewable energy development, energy efficiency and conservation, and the use of clean and environmentally-friendly technologies, to ensure energy security, and sustainability in the region. We also welcomed the outcome of the 9th ASEAN Plus Three Ministers on Energy Meeting (AMEM+3), held in Cambodia, on 12 September 2012.
28. We agreed to further strengthen regional cooperation in the area of disaster management. We supported the early and full operationalisation of the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre) and the implementation of the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) Work Programme for 2010-2015.
29. We noted the constructive role of the ASEAN Plus Three Environment Ministers' Meeting in facilitating closer environmental cooperation. We agreed to further enhance cooperation on climate change adaptation and mitigation, biodiversity and natural heritage conservation, reduction of transboundary environmental pollution, green growth, sustainable water resources management, sustainable forest management and environmental education.
30. We appreciated the important contribution of the Network of East Asian Think-Tanks

(NEAT) in strengthening the East Asia cooperation and moving forward the East Asian community building in the long-term. In this regard, we welcomed the outcomes of the 10th NEAT Annual Conference under the theme of "Deepening East Asian Integration through Building Trust," which was held on 28 August 2012, in Beijing, China, the four meetings of the NEAT Working Groups on "NEAT: the Next Ten Years," "Disaster Management," "Inclusive Growth," and "East Asian Cultural Archive," which were held this year in Beijing, Tokyo, Singapore and Seoul, respectively. We noted the Memorandum Number 9 of the NEAT and encouraged the relevant ASEAN Plus Three sectoral bodies to look into NEAT's Policy Recommendations.

31. We appreciated the important contribution of the East Asia Forum (EAF) in supporting the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation and the East Asian community building. In this regard, we welcomed the outcomes of the 10th EAF under the theme "Narrowing the Development Gaps in Rural and Urban Communities: Sharing Lessons and Experiences Among Us," which was held on 15-17 August 2012, in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.
32. We noted with appreciation the recommendations contained in the final report of the East Asia Vision Group II (EAVGII). We looked forward to the significant contribution of the EAVG II recommendations for the future direction of the ASEAN Plus Three process, regional cooperation and community building and tasked the relevant ministers to consider the recommendations of the EAVG II for further actions.
33. We welcomed the selection of Siem Reap City of Cambodia as the "Cultural City of East Asia 2012 within the framework of ASEAN Plus Three." We also welcomed the designation of the year 2012 as "Visit ASEAN Plus Three Year."
34. We welcomed the conduct of meaningful activities to commemorate the 15th Anniversary of the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation, namely i) the "Workshop on ASEAN Plus Three Partnership on Connectivity" held on 15 June 2012, in Bangkok, Thailand; ii) the "ASEAN Plus Three Youth Leaders' Symposium" held on 18-19 October 2012, in Phnom Penh; iii) the "ASEAN Plus Three Joint Cultural Performance: Unity in Diversity" held on 2-3 November 2012, in Siem Reap, Cambodia; and iv) the Track II Symposium on the Commemoration of the 15th Anniversary of the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation on 17-18 September 2012, in Beijing.
35. We decided to make concerted efforts to strengthen the ASEAN Plus Three partnership in order to further enhance and broaden cooperation in the region with an aim to building an East Asian community in the long-term.

Manila Declaration on the 20th Anniversary of ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation

Manila, 14 November 2017

We, the Heads of State/Government of the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the People's Republic of China, Japan, and the Republic of Korea, gathered in Manila, Philippines on 14 November 2017 to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the ASEAN Plus Three (APT) cooperation.

We reaffirmed our commitment to deepen and broaden the APT process, as guided by, inter alia, the 1999 Joint Statement on East Asia Cooperation and the 2007 Second Joint Statement on East Asia Cooperation.

We reaffirmed the important role of the APT for peace, security and prosperity in the East Asian region.

We reaffirmed our continued support for the central role of ASEAN in the evolving regional architecture and stressed our shared view that the APT would continue to support the implementation of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 to pave the way towards deeper regional integration in East Asia.

We expressed satisfaction with the significant progress and achievements of the APT over the past twenty years, including the deepening of cooperation in all areas, in particular political-security, economy, finance, food security, agriculture, energy, environment and biodiversity conservation, health and pandemic diseases, culture, tourism, science, technology and innovation, information and communication technology, poverty eradication, disaster management, youth and education as well as on connectivity.

We noted the progress made in the follow-up to the East Asia Vision Group (EAVG) II selected recommendations to promote APT cooperation, including the vision to realise an East Asia Economic Community (EAEC) by 2020.

We welcomed the adoption of the APT Cooperation Work Plan (2018-2022) as the principal guide to enhance APT cooperation in the next five years.

DO HEREBY DECLARE on the 20th anniversary of APT cooperation to:

1. Further strengthen and deepen the APT cooperation process as the main vehicle towards achieving the long-term goal of building an East Asian community;

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2. Deepen and strengthen political and security dialogue and cooperation, including through high-level visits, dialogues and consultations, strengthening of the existing APT mechanisms, and active participation at the relevant ASEAN-led mechanisms with a view to ensuring regional peace, security and stability;
3. Strengthen dialogue and cooperation by utilising ASEAN-led mechanisms, including the framework of APT Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (AMMTC+3) Consultation, in addressing common security issues such as terrorism and violent extremism, transnational crimes and threats, and cyber security, as well as enhance maritime cooperation;
4. Strengthen regional financial cooperation under the ASEAN+3 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors' Meeting (AFMGM+3) by further strengthening the Chiang Mai Initiative Multilateralisation (CMIM) as an essential part of the regional financial safety net, fostering the Asian Bond Markets Initiative (ABMI), and supporting the enhancement of the surveillance and organisational capacity of the ASEAN+3 Macroeconomic Research Office (AMRO);
5. Promote regional economic integration, including through the implementation of the ASEAN-China Free Trade Agreement (ACFTA), as well as the ACFTA Upgrading Protocol, the ASEAN-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership (AJCEP), the ASEAN-Korea Free Trade Area (AKFTA) and the swift conclusion of a modern, comprehensive, high quality, and mutually beneficial Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) agreement;
6. Strengthen cooperation in trade-related capacity building; labour and migrant workers; civil service; youth empowerment; agriculture, fisheries, food security and forestry; micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs); creating conducive environments for start-ups; energy security; climate change adaptation and mitigation; disaster management; sustainable water resource management; biodiversity conservation; combating illegal wildlife trade; pandemic diseases and universal health coverage, including through comprehensive and combined efforts for active ageing; and development of related healthcare industries;
7. Continue to support the effective implementation of the Agreement on ASEAN Plus Three Emergency Rice Reserve (APTERR) and the strengthening of ASEAN Food Security Information System (AFSIS);
8. Support ASEAN's efforts to narrow the development gap and promote regional integration among its member states through the implementation of the Initiative for ASEAN Integration Work Plan III;
9. Continue cooperation on ASEAN's connectivity agenda in the five strategic areas of: (i)

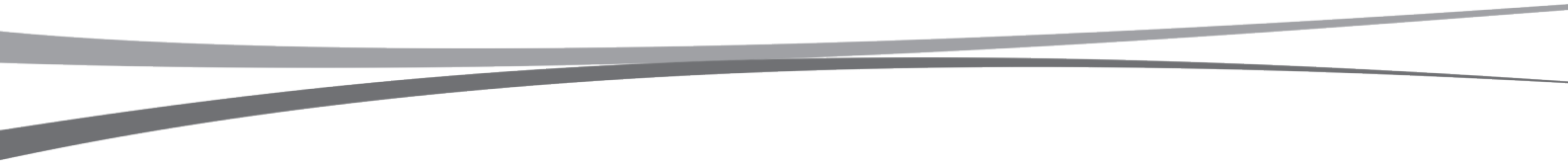
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- sustainable infrastructure; (ii) digital innovation; (iii) seamless logistics; (iv) regulatory excellence and; (v) people mobility with the Plus Three countries with a view to supporting the implementation of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity;
10. Underline the complementarity between the implementation of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to uplift the living standards of our people, leaving no one behind;
 11. Further strengthen engagement between the Committee of Permanent Representatives to ASEAN (CPR) and the Ambassadors to ASEAN of the People's Republic of China, Japan, and the Republic of Korea in Jakarta to discuss the implementation of Leaders' decisions as well as exchange views and information on regional and international issues;
 12. Continue the efforts and work carried out by the CPR Plus Three, sectoral bodies and relevant stakeholders in the implementation of selected recommendations of the EAVG II;
 13. Continue the efforts and work carried out by the ASEAN Plus Three Cultural Cooperation Network (APTCCN) and cooperate in safeguarding and promotion of cultural heritage and achievements through relevant skills-sharing activities and exchanges while optimising appropriate use of tangible and intangible cultural assets for economic growth and poverty alleviation, enhance the city level dialogue and collaboration between East Asian Cultural Cities and the ASEAN City of Culture, where appropriate;
 14. Strengthen the capacities of the ASEAN Secretariat to enhance coordination and present recommendations on areas of cooperation which require further attention;
 15. Maximise the potentials of the ASEAN-Japan Centre, the ASEAN-Korea Centre and the ASEAN-China Centre in promoting trade, investment, tourism, education and people-to-people and cultural exchanges between ASEAN and the individual Plus Three countries;
 16. Encourage the ASEAN Secretariat and the Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat to work together in further promoting ASEAN Plus Three cooperation;
 17. Encourage cooperation between the ASEAN+1 Business Councils, and the East Asia Business Council to explore areas of mutual interest with a view to promoting deeper regional integration and further enhance the work and initiatives of APT cooperation;
 18. Enhance the role of Track 1.5 and Track 2 mechanisms, such as the East Asia Forum (EAF) and the Network of East Asian Think Tanks (NEAT), as supplementary source of inputs for policy formulation that is based on research and inter-sectoral consultations, and consider their recommendations, inter alia, possible approaches towards the

realisation of an EAEC, as proposed by the EAVG II, in consultation with relevant sectoral bodies; and

19. Continue strengthening the APT Cooperation Fund (APTCF) to support the implementation of projects and activities under the APT Cooperation Work Plan.

II. Work Plans



II. Work Plans

ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Work Plan

2007-2017

To realise the goals and objectives set forth in the Second Joint Statement on East Asia Cooperation: "*Building on the Foundations of ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation*", adopted by the Heads of State/Government of ASEAN Plus Three countries on 20 November 2007, this Work Plan is formulated to serve as the master plan to enhance ASEAN Plus Three relations and cooperation in a comprehensive and mutually beneficial manner for the next ten years (2007- 2017). This Work Plan shall also support the establishment of the ASEAN Community by 2015.

In light of the above, the ASEAN Plus Three countries shall pursue the following joint actions and measures as well as capacity building activities, through closer consultation and coordination with sectoral bodies, in accordance with their respective laws and regulations:

SECTION A: POLITICAL AND SECURITY COOPERATION

1 Deepen Political and Security Cooperation

- 1.1 Utilise the ASEAN Plus Three process as the framework for building mutual understanding, confidence and solidarity. The ASEAN Plus Three countries are encouraged to constructively undertake, with increasing candor and transparency, exchanges on their strategic outlooks, assessments of national and regional developments and briefings on their respective strategies and plans on vital issues.
- 1.2 Continue to hold the ASEAN Plus Three Summit annually in conjunction with the ASEAN Summit.
- 1.3 Continue high-level consultations and increase exchanges between officials of the ASEAN Plus Three countries in the political and security areas.
- 1.4 Cooperate to strengthen the multilateral system as well as expand and deepen interaction and coordination, within multilateral frameworks, including the United Nations.

- 1.5 Cooperate to promote good governance, including strengthening the rule of law, promoting human rights, enhancing administrative effectiveness, efficiency, transparency through policy dialogue and capacity building activities and participation by relevant segments of society in policy-making process.
- 1.6 In the framework of applicable national and international law, intensify cooperation to combat corruption, including denying a safe haven to those guilty of public corruption.
- 1.7 Make efforts to progressively increase exchanges and cooperation between defence officials and exchange visits between military training institutions to promote trust and mutual understanding.
- 1.8 Strengthen cooperation through exchanges of experts, joint research projects and joint seminars in order to strengthen the linkages between ASEAN Plus Three government-affiliated policy and strategic research institutes.
- 1.9 Enhance technical assistance and capacity building in support of efforts to address traditional and non-traditional security issues.

2 Peace and Stability Cooperation in the Region

- 2.1 Strengthen cooperation and increase consultations through the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) and the ASEAN Plus Three process with the view to ensuring peace, security and stability in the region.
- 2.2 Promote peace building through, inter alia, sharing of experiences on peace building operations and exchanges of experts and academics on peace studies.
- 2.3 Enhance multilateral and regional cooperation in disarmament and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery and related materials.
- 2.4 Cooperate closely on action-oriented measures including participation of civil society and industrial sectors in opposing the proliferation of WMD by adopting and enforcing effective export controls, and on disarmament issues with the objective of total elimination of all WMD including nuclear weapons, in accordance with their national legislation and consistent with international law.

3 Counter-Terrorism

- 3.1 Strengthen cooperation in the field of border management to jointly address matters of common concern, including forgeries of identification and travel documents, by enhancing the use of relevant technologies to effectively stem the flow of terrorists and criminals, to monitor and curb their means of operations as well as enhancing cooperation to prevent the organisation, instigation and support for groups that carry out acts detrimental to the security and stability of ASEAN

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Plus Three countries.

- 3.2 Enhance cooperation in information sharing on terrorists and transnational criminal organisations, including their leaders and members, operational methods and supporting infrastructures, linkages, as well as criminal activities.
- 3.3 Implement measures to combat money laundering and terrorist financing, in accordance with the recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF).
- 3.4 Work towards the elimination of smuggling of small arms and light weapons, as a major contribution to the national and international efforts of counter terrorism.
- 3.5 Support the implementation of the ASEAN Convention on Counter Terrorism.
- 3.6 Support the implementation of and the accession to relevant international conventions and protocols on counter terrorism and the finalisation of a UN comprehensive convention on international terrorism.
- 3.7 Ensure that any measures taken to combat terrorism are implemented in accordance with international laws, in particular, regarding human rights, displaced persons and humanitarian concerns.
- 3.8 Cooperate to support development initiatives aimed at enhancing quality of life, rule of law, good governance and community awareness in order to reduce the conditions that terrorists seek to exploit.

4 Maritime Cooperation

- 4.1 Enhance maritime cooperation on safety of navigation, such as through implementation of relevant international and regional treaties and agreements and through, inter alia, the promotion of information sharing, and technology cooperation projects such as through exchanges of visits of authorities concerned, training of personnel in search and rescue and other areas, where applicable.
- 4.2 Forge closer cooperation in fighting against sea piracy, armed robbery against ships, hijacking and smuggling, in accordance with international laws and without impinging on the sovereignty and territorial integrity of ASEAN Plus Three countries.

5 Other Non-Traditional Security Issues

- 5.1 Support ASEAN in attaining the Drug Free ASEAN 2015 goals.
- 5.2 Strengthen cooperation among law enforcement agencies in relation to extradition and mutual legal assistance, in accordance with the domestic laws of ASEAN Plus Three countries and other relevant treaties.
- 5.3 Strengthen cooperation in combating trafficking in persons and actively support the comprehensive implementation of the ASEAN Declaration against Trafficking

in Persons, Particularly Women and Children including cooperation among law enforcement agencies.

- 5.4 Strengthen cooperation and render mutual assistance in combating and suppressing cyber crimes including cooperation among law enforcement agencies, taking into account the need of each country to develop laws to address cyber crimes.

SECTION B: ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL COOPERATION

1 Trade and Investment

- 1.1 Conclude the ASEAN+1 FTAs negotiations according to their schedules and to ensure their smooth implementation in order to enhance overall economic growth and development conducive to businesses.
- 1.2 Continue efforts towards promoting and strengthening economic cooperation in the East Asian region, including an idea of region-wide FTAs, taking into account the recommendations of various studies that have been completed or are currently being undertaken.
- 1.3 Phase out tariffs and non-tariff barriers to ensure free flow of goods in ASEAN Plus Three countries, in accordance with the results of WTO negotiations and relevant FTA/EPA negotiations and continue to accord Generalised System of Preference (GSP) status and preferential treatment for Developing and Least Developed Countries.
- 1.4 Encourage discussion on mobility of labor and its influence on economies and other related issues, taking into account the respective circumstances of each country.
- 1.5 Strengthen cooperation in the multilateral trading system, especially in the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and support the early accession of Lao PDR to the WTO.
- 1.6 Jointly pursue the successful conclusion of the negotiations of the Doha Development Agenda (DDA) and endeavour to ensure that the development dimension of the DDA is embodied in a comprehensive package that would deliver tangible, fair and effective development benefits to all developing member countries.
- 1.7 Strengthen efforts to facilitate trade through improving customs procedures such as promotion of pre-arrival customs processing/clearance of goods, audit-based practices of customs control, standardisation of practices to assess customs value and origin determination.

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- 1.8 Work towards expediting customs clearance and release, using ASEAN Single Window as a basis.
- 1.9 Promote the application of information and communication technology (ICT) in the field of customs for better management and service.
- 1.10 Promote the transparency of policies to facilitate trade and investment expansion, including those enhancing conducive business environment, business mobility and trade financing.
- 1.11 Encourage free flow of services and progressively liberalise trade in services in accordance with the results of WTO negotiations and relevant FTA/EPA negotiations consistent with the WTO rules and principles.
- 1.12 Strengthen the role of the East Asia Business Council (EABC) in pushing forward economic cooperation in East Asia and to encourage appropriate activities aimed at promoting business interaction in the region.
- 1.13 Provide regional support to foster an attractive investment climate through sharing best practices, giving mutual encouragement, responding to the requirements of investors, extending technical assistance and exchanging statistical information.
- 1.14 Consider conducting comprehensive studies on the possible establishment of an East Asia Investment Area by expanding the ASEAN Investment Area.
- 1.15 Promote cooperation between investment promotion agencies and facilitate mutual investment promotion missions by respective business communities.
- 1.16 Promote understanding of each other's policies, regulations and legislations pertaining or related to trade, competition policy, services, investment and industry as well as the sharing of experiences and best practices among ASEAN Plus Three countries.

2 Financial Cooperation

- 2.1 Develop a regional liquidity support mechanism through the multilateralisation of the Chiang Mai Initiative.
- 2.2 Develop further the Asian Bond Markets Initiative.
- 2.3 Strengthen surveillance mechanisms, enhance domestic financial systems and facilitate the development and orderly integration of financial markets.

3 Standards and Conformance

- 3.1 Cooperate to support ASEAN's efforts to adopt and use international standards as the basis for technical regulations, conformity assessment procedures and Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS) standards, as appropriate and consistent with WTO principles.
- 3.2 Promote information exchange with ASEAN regarding development of standards,

technical regulations and conformity assessment procedures, including the domestic implementation of WTO TBT agreements.

- 3.3 Undertake appropriate measures to ensure greater participation and contribution of ASEAN Member Countries in the international and regional bodies related to standards and conformance.

4 Intellectual Property Rights

- 4.1 Promote the exchange of views, experiences and information in the creation, utilisation, protection, commercialisation and enforcement of intellectual property rights and related issues of mutual concern.
- 4.2 Undertake appropriate measures to strengthen IP systems and promote greater public awareness of IP and IPR issues in the field of education and industries, the commercialisation of IP, the utilisation of IP information, and technology transfer, in accordance with the relevant provisions in the WTO TRIPS Agreement.
- 4.3 Promote the harmonisation of IP laws and systems, where possible, to enhance trade and investment in the region and facilitate intellectual property rights registration.
- 4.4 Promote cooperative activities to increase the level of knowledge among a broader section of government officials and IP professionals so that they may contribute to business growth and development.
- 4.5 Endeavour to encourage technology-transfer policies on the part of multinational corporations operating in the region.

5 Transport

- 5.1 Forge closer cooperation to enhance transport infrastructure, networks and operations, including air, maritime, road, rail, and multi-modal transport, for fast, efficient and safe movement of people and goods, as well as for clean urban transport, in and among ASEAN Member Countries and between ASEAN and the Plus Three Countries.
- 5.2 Enhance cooperation in the development of new transportation systems, such as "Intelligent Transportation Systems-ITS," promotion of public transport, road networks and structures, environment-friendly maintenance, technological development and regulations, road safety management.
- 5.3 Enhance cooperation in capacity-building and human resources development, in the areas of transport policy, planning and regulation and in transferring and sharing of technology as mutually agreed.
- 5.4 Enhance cooperation in observing international rules on safety and security in air, land, and maritime transport, taking into account relevant international laws and

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in accordance with the domestic laws of the ASEAN Plus Three countries.

- 5.5 Enhance cooperation to promote transport linkages, focusing on air connectivity, among ASEAN Plus Three Countries, as appropriate.
- 5.6 Expedite the completion of the Singapore-Kunming Rail Link (SKRL) project.

6 Tourism

- 6.1 Promote the development of quality tourism through, where appropriate, the promotion of ASEAN's environmental management standards and certification programmes for sustainable tourism, and forge concrete collaboration in cultural and eco-tourism, cruise tourism, youth exchange, manpower development, joint tourism marketing and promotion, and quality assurance, as well as safety measures for tourists.
- 6.2 Promote linkages and strengthen cooperation among national tourism organisations and training institutions, covering areas such as tourism information exchange, human resource development and crisis communications, and encourage the involvement of the private sector in such cooperation.

7 Food, Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

- 7.1 Forge closer cooperation in agriculture in key areas of mutual interests, including research and development, technology transfer, crops, horticultural plants cultivation, biotechnology application, fertiliser, agricultural infrastructure, post-harvest technology, livestock, fisheries, aquaculture, organic farming, as well as agricultural cooperatives.
- 7.2 Promote networking in areas of key mutual interest between government authorities concerned, as well as between agricultural and food-related research institutions of ASEAN Plus Three Countries.
- 7.3 Cooperate in strengthening agricultural markets and promoting linkages and cooperation between relevant agriculture authorities to enhance accessibility of ASEAN agricultural products into global markets.
- 7.4 Promote cooperation in rural financial institutions, such as agricultural banks and micro-financing arrangements.
- 7.5 Provide opportunities for ASEAN farmers, including young farmers, and those engaged in agribusiness to learn and develop more efficient farming practices and management skills through training and information sharing with Plus Three Countries farmers.
- 7.6 Enhance capacity-building and human resources development in areas of agriculture where there is key mutual interest through training courses, seminars, workshops, job attachment and scholarship schemes.

- 7.7 Promote closer cooperation in food security, including exchange of information on major food commodities, food handling and food safety.
- 7.8 Enhance cooperation in sustainable forest management, and deepen cooperation in the Asian Forest Partnership (AFP) as an effective way to tackle the challenges of forest management in Asia through collaborative efforts, especially law enforcement mechanisms of illegal logging and its associated trade, prevention of forest fires, reforestation of degraded lands, and a phased approach to certification.
- 7.9 Cooperate on fisheries and forest products development and promotion schemes.
- 7.10 Promote regionalisation of the code of conduct for responsible fisheries.

8 Minerals

- 8.1 Facilitate trade and investment in the mineral sector for mutual benefits, as well as forge closer cooperation in capacity building in the mineral sector.
- 8.2 Enhance collaboration in research and development activities for the sustainable development of the mineral sector.
- 8.3 Encourage private sector participation and public-private sector collaboration in the development and/or implementation of joint cooperation in programmes and activities related to the sustainable development of mineral resources in the region.
- 8.4 Promote technical information exchange, experience and best practices on, among others, the development of the ASEAN Mineral Database, scientific and technological research and development of geosciences, the sustainable development of mineral resources.

9 Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs)

- 9.1 Foster a conducive business environment through encouraging information linkages to share and exchange knowledge and experience in both public and private sectors on policies and support programmes relating to SMEs, general management, finance, marketing, business development services and production technology, including but not limited to research and best practices.
- 9.2 Promote cooperation among SMEs in the region through mutually agreed technology transfer, mentoring, market research, management skill training, meetings and exchanges between potential SMEs, and training programmes in Plus Three countries.
- 9.3 Promote e-commerce cooperation to enhance the collaboration, partnership, and internationalisation of SMEs within ASEAN Plus Three countries.
- 9.4 Jointly identify and overcome barriers in SME business partnerships, including in

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market development and access to common markets.

- 9.5 Promote SME investments in ASEAN countries, as well as alert SMEs to market opportunities in those countries.

10 Information and Communication Technology (ICT)

- 10.1 Promote cooperation activities, particularly in the areas of bridging the digital divide, telemedicine, e-government, e-commerce, distance education, cyber security and network monitoring, and for mutual recognition of electronic signatures for cross-border transactions.
- 10.2 Enhance cooperation and development of interconnected, high-capacity and resilient information infrastructure between ASEAN and the Plus Three Countries through various measures, e.g. policies and regulations for next generation network (NGN), Ipv6, wireless broadband, and applications of the suitable, new and emerging technologies.
- 10.3 Facilitate cooperation in regulatory framework to support trade, investment and business activities in ICT sector, harmonisation of frequency, standards and interoperability of products/services, and consumer protection.

11 Development Cooperation

- 11.1 Support the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) and other sub-regional endeavours such as the Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy (ACMECS), the ASEAN-Mekong Basin Development Cooperation (AMBDC), the Brunei Darussalam- Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East ASEAN Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA), the Cambodia-Lao PDR-Viet Nam (CLV) Development Triangle, the Greater Mekong Sub Region (GMS), the Indonesia-Malaysia-Thailand Growth Triangle (IMT-GT) and the East-West Economic Corridor (EWEC) to narrow the development gaps in ASEAN in order to expedite regional integration.
- 11.2 Continue to develop resources and infrastructure jointly for growth areas and to continue mobilising and exploring the expansion of financial resources for development with active participation of the private sector.
- 11.3 Promote development cooperation in accordance with international norms, rules and disciplines.

SECTION C: ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

1 Energy Cooperation

- 1.1 Pursue energy security, sustainable development and economic growth in

an integrated approach taking into account specific and diverse national circumstances.

- 1.2 Promote energy diversification through information exchanges and researches on alternative, new and renewable energy development such as solar, wind, sea tides and waves, hydro, geothermal, clean coal technology, biofuels, biomass, gas and marsh gas, and others, taking into consideration each country's specific national circumstances; and for those Member countries which choose to do so, the use of civilian nuclear energy, while giving careful and due regards to the security, environmental, health and internationally-recognised safety standards of the energy source.
- 1.3 Promote energy conservation and energy efficiency as well as the use of clean and environment-friendly technologies such as new vehicle technologies.
- 1.4 Endeavour to create a more favourable market environment with a view to creating efficient energy market, facilitating regional energy production and trade, promoting investment in energy infrastructure and facilities.
- 1.5 Improve energy efficiency, where possible, in all sectors, such as the industrial, transport, residential/commercial and power sectors, through setting individual goals and formulating action plans.
- 1.6 Enhance cooperation on emergency preparedness by making full use of the ASEAN Plus Three Energy Security Communication System.
- 1.7 Promote greater cooperation and market transparency, including through the Joint Oil Data Initiative, and intensify the exchange of energy data, where possible, and the sharing of national energy policies on a voluntary basis.
- 1.8 Explore means of supporting the national rural electrification programmes of concerned ASEAN member countries.
- 1.9 Support the work of the ASEAN Centre for Energy.
- 1.10 Consider specific projects and proposals on energy issues raised within various regional processes such as the EAS and APEC.
- 1.11 Promote dialogue with Middle East oil and gas producing countries to enhance mutual understanding and cooperation between oil-producing and oil-consuming countries.
- 1.12 Promote cooperation for diversification of energy transportation routes to enhance energy security.

2 Environment and Sustainable Development

- 2.1 Forge closer cooperation in protecting the environment and promoting sustainable use of natural resources.

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- 2.2 Forge closer cooperation among ASEAN Plus Three countries to mitigate and adapt to climate change.
- 2.3 Strengthen cooperation, among others, in the development, transfer and diffusion of technologies to raise the capacity of ASEAN Plus Three countries to respond to climate change.
- 2.4 Forge closer cooperation in the following areas:
 - (a) transboundary environmental pollution reduction, particularly transboundary haze pollution,
 - (b) biological diversity and natural heritage conservation,
 - (c) application of advanced and environment-friendly technologies and best practices,
 - (d) sustainable water resource management, including groundwater
 - (e) coastal and marine environment,
 - (f) sustainable forest management, including combating activities associated with illegal encroachment and destruction of forest resources,
 - (g) urban environmental management and governance, especially the ASEAN Initiative on Environmentally Sustainable Cities,
 - (h) responsible mining and minerals development,
 - (i) public awareness and environmental education,
 - (j) multilateral environmental agreements, in particular climate change and chemical and chemical waste related conventions and partnerships, and
 - (k) air quality management.
- 2.5 Enhance cooperation in capacity building in the area of environment through the following:
 - (a) exchanges of information and experiences between and among government authorities, institutions and experts,
 - (b) provision of training courses and scholarships,
 - (c) undertaking joint research and development and networking among research/academic institutions, and
 - (d) technology transfer.
- 2.6 Promote 3R (Reduce, Reuse and Recycle) and environmental sound management of waste.
- 2.7 Promote sustainable development as a means to reduce negative aspects of development on the environment.

SECTION D: SOCIO-CULTURAL AND DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

- 1 Develop cooperative activities towards realising the UN Millennium Development Goals.
- 2 Strengthen the Networking of East Asian Cultural Heritage (NEACH), the East Asia Forum (EAF), the Network of East Asian Think Tanks (NEAT) and the Network of East Asian Studies (NEAS), and consider their recommendations as supplementary source of inputs for policy formulation that is based on research and inter-sectoral consultations.
- 3 **Poverty Alleviation**
 - 3.1 Open ASEAN Plus Three countries' markets to the products of their poorer citizens, including assistance in marketing their products, in accordance with multilateral or bilateral agreements and arrangements, and provide assistance to education, skills training, public health, the protection of their work environment and the building of effective national and community institutions.
 - 3.2 Establish benchmarks and monitoring mechanisms to measure progress toward the Millennium Development Goals, extending assistance to enable such progress to be made, such as networks among "poverty alleviation facilitators", poverty-related data collection systems and monitoring systems for poverty alleviation programmes.
 - 3.3 Forge closer cooperation in capacity building in the area of rural development and poverty eradication for government officials, experts, practitioners through information and experience sharing activities, people-exchange programme, training courses.
 - 3.4 Monitor the effects of trade liberalisation and economic integration on rural development and poverty alleviation programme, including social protection systems and ICT as a tool for rural development and poverty alleviation.
- 4 **Promoting Development of Vulnerable Groups**
 - 4.1 Support efforts to provide care to and promote empowerment of vulnerable groups, such as children, youth, women, the elderly and persons with disabilities.
 - 4.2 Support efforts to ensure access of persons with disabilities to opportunities and protection against all forms of discrimination, including the promotion of their human rights.
 - 4.3 Support efforts to promote equitable participation of and equitable distribution of benefits for women in the development process by eliminating all forms of discrimination against them.
 - 4.4 Strengthen cooperation in addressing violence against women and children.
- 5 **Culture and People-to-People Contact**
 - 5.1 Cooperate in the promotion of people-to-people contacts involving, *inter alia*,

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parliamentarians, government officials, academia, youth, media, cultural experts, sports persons and representatives of business, industries, and think tank institutions.

- 5.2 Promote education, access to justice, and the empowerment of moderates in various religions as well as promote inter-faith and inter-cultural dialogue to enhance mutual understanding among different cultures and religions, as well as promote universal ideals of religious moderation and tolerance.
- 5.3 Support efforts to engage civil society in developing a people-centered ASEAN Community.
- 5.4 Promote cultural understanding and greater awareness of each other's culture, through regularly held cultural festivals, film festivals, art exhibitions, workshops and other events, such as the East Asia Week.
- 5.5 Promote interaction, networking, and exchange of visits between government authorities involved in cultural affairs, as well as between cultural institutions, museums, archives and libraries, as well as artists, experts, practitioners in theatre, music, acrobatics, dance, folk art, and cinematography.
- 5.6 Render mutual assistance and cooperation for the protection, preservation, and restoration of cultural and historical heritage, both tangible and intangible, according to the laws and regulations of each country, enhance cooperation to combat pillage, illicit trafficking and smuggling of moveable cultural property.
- 5.7 Promote closer cooperation and collaboration between cultural, creative and design industries including joint venture and co-production.
- 5.8 Promote exchanges and cooperation in the area of journalism, including press, radio, and television.
- 5.9 Promote research and policy dialogue on the impact of globalisation, modernisation and ICT revolution on youth with a view to exchanging lessons learned and best practices.
- 5.10 Intensify youth exchanges, for deeper mutual understanding and forging a sense of commonality, as well as continue to hold the ASEAN Plus Three Young Leaders Forum.

6 Education

- 6.1 Encourage investments in education and training to accelerate learning opportunities for out-of-school children and youth and to upgrade the quality of educational institutions, including human resources development for teachers, lecturers and administrative personnel.
- 6.2 Promote collaboration, networking, and research and development among

institutions and authorities involved in education.

- 6.3 Promote higher education cooperation, increase linkages between universities through the ASEAN University Network (AUN) and encourage credit transfers between universities in ASEAN Plus Three countries.
- 6.4 Support research activities and exchanges of ASEAN Plus Three scholars and professionals interested in the ASEAN Plus Three relationship.
- 6.5 Continue to make efforts to expedite visa application procedures for students and intellectuals of ASEAN Member Countries who travel to the Plus Three countries for academic purposes, in accordance with existing national regulations.
- 6.6 Cultivate an East Asian identity through promotion of ASEAN Studies and East Asian Studies in the region.

7 Science and Technology

- 7.1 Broaden and expand exchanges and cooperation between the scientific and technological communities in ASEAN Plus Three countries.
- 7.2 Cooperate in the fields of technology transfer and technology management on issues covering R&D and IPR management, technology commercialisation, public-private sector collaboration, and science, technology and innovation indicators.
- 7.3 Promote research and technology development in areas of having potential for commercial applications such as biotechnology, food technology, new materials, microelectronics and information technology, marine resources, new and renewable energy, and space technology.
- 7.4 Strengthen cooperation in meteorology addressing climate information and prediction services, weather observations and climate change.
- 7.5 Promote the awareness of specific elements of community such as private sector and youth in science and technology through the participation in various activities such as ASEAN Food Conference, ASEAN Science and Technology Week, S&T Youth Camp and other relevant events.

8 Public Health

- 8.1 Strengthen cooperation in capacity building and enhance cooperation and technical assistance for government authorities and members of the private sector, civil society institutions, laboratories, and experts in the area of public and environmental health.
- 8.2 Strengthen cooperation in capacity building of government staffs in public health emergency disaster management.
- 8.3 Promote networking among government authorities and members of the private

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sectors of ASEAN Plus Three countries, including between laboratories, research institutions and experts.

- 8.4 Promote research and development and human resources development in the areas related to public health, including joint research and development, seminars, workshops, training courses and study tours as well as exchange of visits and scholarships for officials, health professionals and experts.
- 8.5 Enhance cooperation, research and technical assistance at the global and regional levels to prevent, control and reduce the impact of communicable and pandemic diseases, such as HIV/AIDS, SARS, avian influenza, tuberculosis and dengue hemorrhagic fever, and also to increase health and well-being of mother, children and newborns.
- 8.6 Effectively implement the ASEAN Plus Three Emerging Infectious Diseases Programme and continue supporting the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.
- 8.7 Continue to improve ASEAN's emergency preparedness against the outbreak of pandemic influenza, including information sharing and early warning systems, immediate transfer from the existing ASEAN stockpile of antiviral and personal protection equipment to the sites of pandemic influenza outbreak, and establish a network of antiviral drug stockpiles.
- 8.8 Increase accessibility to safe, non-counterfeit, affordable and effective medication.

9 Disaster Management and Emergency Response

- 9.1 Strengthen cooperation in the fields of floods, landslides, earthquakes and other disasters such as assistance to support national and regional network of early warning systems for tsunamis and other disasters, including through real-time information sharing and public awareness campaigns.
- 9.2 Render assistance to the implementation of the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response.
- 9.3 Enhance civil-military cooperation in disaster relief.

SECTION E: INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT AND FOLLOW-UP MECHANISM

- 1 Develop the modalities of an ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Fund.
- 2 Continue to strengthen the ASEAN Plus Three Unit at the ASEAN Secretariat to improve consultation and coordination among the ASEAN Plus Three countries.
- 3 Conduct joint projects to advance the objectives of this Plan, and, where appropriate, sub-regional activities and cooperative efforts that further the goals and objectives set forth in this Work Plan will be encouraged.

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- 4 The ASEAN Secretariat to develop a schedule and time frame for implementation of the Work Plan to be endorsed by the ASEAN Plus Three countries.
- 5 Regularly review this Work Plan through the existing mechanisms, with the ASEAN Plus Three Directors-General Meeting as the monitoring mechanism.
- 6 Submit concise progress reports on the implementation of the Work Plan to the annual ASEAN Plus Three Summit.

ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Work Plan

2013-2017

This ASEAN Plus Three (APT) Cooperation Work Plan 2013-2017 is a revision of the APT Cooperation Work Plan 2007-2017 based on the assessment and recommendations of the Mid-Term Review of the APT Cooperation Work Plan 2007-2017 adopted by the 14th APT Foreign Ministers' Meeting on 30 June 2013. This Work Plan will serve as the master plan to enhance APT relations and cooperation in a comprehensive and mutually beneficial manner for the period of 2013 – 2017 with the APT process as a main vehicle while continuing to support the central role of ASEAN in the evolving regional architecture. This Work Plan also contributes towards the establishment of the ASEAN Community by 2015.

In order to continue strengthening and deepening cooperation, the APT countries will pursue the following joint actions and measures as well as capacity building activities, through closer consultation and coordination with sectoral bodies, in accordance with their respective laws and regulations:

I. POLITICAL AND SECURITY COOPERATION

1.1 Deepening Political And Security Cooperation

- 1.1.1 Utilise the APT process as the framework for building mutual understanding, confidence and solidarity. The APT countries are encouraged to constructively conduct, with increasing candour and transparency, exchanges on their strategic outlooks, assessments of national and regional developments and briefings on their respective strategies and plans on vital issues;
- 1.1.2 Continue to hold the APT Summit annually in conjunction with the ASEAN Summit;
- 1.1.3 Continue high-level consultations and increase exchanges between officials of the APT countries in the political and security areas;
- 1.1.4 Cooperate to strengthen the multilateral system as well as expand and deepen interaction and coordination, within multilateral frameworks, including the United Nations;

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- 1.1.5 Cooperate to promote good governance, including strengthening the rule of law, promoting human rights, enhancing administrative effectiveness, efficiency, and transparency through policy dialogue, and to promote capacity building activities, and participation by relevant segments of society in policy-making process;
 - 1.1.6 In the framework of applicable national and international law, intensify cooperation to combat corruption, including denying a safe haven to those guilty of public corruption;
 - 1.1.7 Make efforts to progressively increase exchanges and cooperation between defence officials and exchange visits between military training institutions to promote trust and mutual understanding;
 - 1.1.8 Strengthen cooperation through exchanges of experts, joint research projects and joint seminars in order to strengthen the linkages between APT government-affiliated policy and strategic research institutes; and
 - 1.1.9 Enhance technical assistance and capacity building in support of efforts to address traditional and non-traditional security issues.
- 1.2 Strengthening Peace And Stability Cooperation In The Region
- 1.2.1 Strengthen cooperation and increase consultations through the relevant ASEAN- led mechanisms including the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus), and East Asia Summit (EAS) with the view to ensuring peace, security and stability in the region;
 - 1.2.2 Promote peace building through, inter alia, sharing of experiences on peace building operations and exchanges of experts and academics on peace studies;
 - 1.2.3 Enhance multilateral and regional cooperation in disarmament and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery and related materials; and
 - 1.2.4 Cooperate closely on action-oriented measures including participation of civil society and industrial sectors in opposing the proliferation of WMD by adopting and enforcing effective export controls, and on disarmament issues with the objective of total elimination of all WMD including nuclear weapons, in accordance with their national legislation and consistent with international law.
- 1.3 Combating Transnational Crimes And Addressing Other Non-Traditional Security Issues
- 1.3.1 Strengthen cooperation in the field of border management to jointly address

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matters of common concern, including forgeries of identification and travel documents, by enhancing the use of relevant technologies to effectively stem the flow of terrorists and criminals, to monitor and curb their means of operations as well as enhancing cooperation to prevent the organisation, instigation and support for groups that carry out acts detrimental to the security and stability of APT countries;

- 1.3.2 Enhance cooperation in information sharing on terrorists and transnational criminal organisations, including their leaders and members, operational methods and supporting infrastructures, linkages, as well as criminal activities;
- 1.3.3 Implement measures to combat money laundering and terrorist financing, in accordance with the recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF);
- 1.3.4 Work towards the elimination of smuggling of small arms and light weapons, as a major contribution to the national and international efforts of counter terrorism;
- 1.3.5 Support the implementation of the ASEAN Convention on Counter Terrorism;
- 1.3.6 Support the implementation of and the accession to relevant international conventions and protocols on counter terrorism and the finalisation of a UN comprehensive convention on international terrorism;
- 1.3.7 Ensure that any measures taken to combat terrorism are implemented in accordance with international laws, in particular, regarding human rights, displaced persons and humanitarian concerns;
- 1.3.8 Cooperate to support development initiatives aimed at enhancing quality of life, rule of law, good governance and community awareness in order to reduce the conditions that terrorists seek to exploit;
- 1.3.9 Support ASEAN in attaining the Drug Free ASEAN 2015 goals;
- 1.3.10 Strengthen cooperation among law enforcement agencies in relation to extradition and mutual legal assistance, in accordance with the domestic laws of APT countries and other relevant treaties;
- 1.3.11 Strengthen cooperation in combating trafficking in persons and actively support the comprehensive implementation of the ASEAN Declaration against Trafficking in Persons, Particularly Women and Children including cooperation among law enforcement agencies; and
- 1.3.12 Strengthen cooperation and render mutual assistance in combating and

suppressing cybercrimes including cooperation among law enforcement agencies, taking into account the need of each country to develop laws to address cybercrimes.

1.4 Enhancing Maritime Cooperation

1.4.1 Enhance maritime cooperation including in the area of maritime security through cooperative activities, such as safety of navigation, and in accordance with relevant international and regional treaties and agreements including the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and through, inter alia, the promotion of information sharing, and technology cooperation projects such as through exchanges of visits of authorities concerned, training of personnel in search and rescue and other areas, where applicable; and

1.4.2 Forge closer cooperation in fighting against sea piracy, armed robbery against ships, hijacking and smuggling, in accordance with relevant international laws including through cooperation with relevant regional cooperative frameworks, without impinging on the sovereignty and territorial integrity of APT countries.

II. ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL COOPERATION

2.1 Promoting Trade And Investment

2.1.1 Ensure that the ASEAN+1 FTAs with China and the Republic of Korea as well as the ASEAN-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership remain commercially meaningful to business in the region and promote the utilisation of these FTAs in order to enhance overall economic growth and development conducive to businesses;

2.1.2 Support the on-going process towards establishing the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), to facilitate economic activities among ASEAN and its Free Trade Agreement partners including the Plus Three countries;

2.1.3 Phase out tariffs and non-tariff barriers to ensure free flow of goods in APT countries, in accordance with the results of WTO negotiations and relevant FTA/EPA negotiations and continue to accord Generalised System of Preference (GSP) status and preferential treatment for Developing and Least Developed Countries;

2.1.4 Encourage discussion on mobility of labour and its influence on economies and

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other related issues, taking into account the respective circumstances of each country;

- 2.1.5 Strengthen cooperation in the multilateral trading system, especially in the World Trade Organisation (WTO), including jointly pursuing the successful conclusion of the negotiations of the Doha Development Agenda (DDA) and endeavour to ensure that the development dimension of the DDA is embodied in a comprehensive package that would deliver tangible, fair and effective development benefits to all developing and the least developed member countries;
- 2.1.6 Strengthen efforts to facilitate trade through improving customs procedures such as promotion of pre-arrival customs processing/clearance of goods, audit-based practices of customs control, standardisation of practices to assess customs value and origin determination;
- 2.1.7 Work towards expediting customs clearance and release, using ASEAN Single Window as a basis;
- 2.1.8 Promote the application of information and communication technology (ICT) in the field of customs for better management and service;
- 2.1.9 Promote the transparency of policies to facilitate trade and investment expansion, including those enhancing conducive business environment, business mobility and trade financing;
- 2.1.10 Encourage free flow of services and progressively liberalise trade in services in accordance with the results of the WTO negotiations and relevant FTA/EPA negotiations consistent with the WTO rules and principles;
- 2.1.11 Strengthen the role of the East Asia Business Council (EABC) in pushing forward economic cooperation in East Asia and to encourage appropriate activities aimed at promoting business interaction in the region;
- 2.1.12 Provide regional support to foster an attractive investment climate through sharing best practices, giving mutual encouragement, responding to the requirements of investors, extending technical assistance and exchanging statistical information;
- 2.1.13 Consider conducting comprehensive studies on the possible establishment of an East Asia Investment Area by expanding the ASEAN Investment Area.
- 2.1.14 Promote cooperation between investment promotion agencies and facilitate mutual investment promotion missions by respective business communities;

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- 2.1.15 Promote understanding of each other's policies, regulations and legislations pertaining or related to trade, competition policy, services, investment and industry as well as the sharing of experiences and best practices among APT countries; and
 - 2.1.16 Facilitate cooperation in regulatory framework to support trade, investment and business activities in ICT sector, harmonisation of frequency, standards and interoperability of products/services, and consumer protection.
- 2.2 Strengthening Financial Cooperation
- 2.2.1 Operationalise the strengthened Chiang Mai Initiative Multilateralisation (CMIM) as part of the regional financial safety net;
 - 2.2.2 Transform the ASEAN+3 Macroeconomic Research Office (AMRO) to an international organisation to enhance further its role as an independent regional surveillance unit in contributing to effective monitoring and analysis of regional economies, early detection of risks, swift implementation and remedial actions, and effective decision-making of the CMIM;
 - 2.2.3 Enhance the soundness and resilience of financial systems, and facilitate the cooperation and development of financial markets in the region;
 - 2.2.4 Implement the Asian Bond Markets Initiative (ABMI) New Roadmap+, focusing on its nine priorities, which include among others, the implementation of guarantee programme of the Credit Guarantee and Investment Facility (CGIF) and the enhancement of ASEAN+3 Bond Market Forum (ABMF) activities; and
 - 2.2.5 Explore the possibility of other mutually beneficial areas of financial cooperation, such as areas under infrastructure financing and disaster risk insurance.
- 2.3 Promoting Standards And Conformance
- 2.3.1 Cooperate to support ASEAN's efforts to adopt and use international standards as the basis for technical regulations, conformity assessment procedures and Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS) standards, as appropriate and consistent with WTO principles;
 - 2.3.2 Promote information exchange with ASEAN regarding development of standards, technical regulations and conformity assessment procedures, including the domestic implementation of WTO TBT agreements; and
 - 2.3.3 Implement appropriate measures to ensure greater participation and contribution of ASEAN Member States in the international and regional bodies

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related to standards and conformance.

2.4 Enhancing Cooperation In Intellectual Property Rights

- 2.4.1 Promote the exchange of views, experiences and information in the creation, utilisation, protection, commercialisation of intellectual property (IP) and enforcement of intellectual property rights (IPR) and related issues of mutual concern;
- 2.4.2 Implement appropriate measures to strengthen IP systems and promote greater public awareness of IP and IPR issues in the fields of education and industries, the commercialisation of IP, the utilisation of IP information, and technology transfer, in accordance with the relevant provisions in the WTO TRIPS Agreement;
- 2.4.3 Promote the harmonisation of IP laws and systems, where possible, to enhance trade and investment in the region and facilitate intellectual property rights registration;
- 2.4.4 Promote cooperative activities to increase the level of knowledge among a broader section of government officials and IP professionals so that they may contribute to business growth and development; and
- 2.4.5 Endeavour to encourage technology-transfer policies on the part of multinational corporations operating in the region.

2.5 Promoting Quality Tourism

- 2.5.1 Promote the development of quality tourism through, where appropriate, the promotion of ASEAN's environmental management standards and certification programmes for sustainable tourism, and forge concrete collaboration in cultural and eco-tourism, medical tourism and health services, cruise tourism, youth exchange, human resources development, joint tourism marketing and promotion, and quality assurance, as well as safety measures for tourists; and
- 2.5.2 Promote linkages and strengthen cooperation among national tourism organisations and training institutions, covering areas such as tourism information exchange, human resource development and crisis communications, and encourage the involvement of the private sector in such cooperation.

2.6 Enhancing Cooperation In Food, Agriculture, Fisheries And Forestry

- 2.6.1 Forge closer cooperation in agriculture in key areas of mutual interests, including research and development, technology transfer, crops, horticultural

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plants cultivation, biotechnology application, fertiliser, agricultural investment and infrastructure, post-harvest technology, food handling, food safety, livestock, fisheries, organic farming, and agricultural cooperatives;

- 2.6.2 Promote networking in areas of key mutual interest between government authorities concerned, as well as between agricultural and food-related research institutions of APT countries;
- 2.6.3 Cooperate in strengthening agricultural markets and promoting linkages and cooperation between relevant agriculture authorities to enhance accessibility of ASEAN agricultural products into global markets;
- 2.6.4 Promote cooperation in rural financial institutions, such as agricultural banks and micro-financing arrangements;
- 2.6.5 Provide opportunities for ASEAN farmers, including young farmers, and those engaged in agribusiness to learn and develop more efficient farming practices and management skills through training and information sharing with the Plus Three countries farmers;
- 2.6.6 Enhance capacity-building and human resources development in areas of agriculture where there is key mutual interest through training courses, seminars, workshops, job attachment and scholarship schemes;
- 2.6.7 Enhance further cooperation to ensure sustainable food security in the region by strengthening the implementation of the APT Emergency Rice Reserve (APTERR) agreement;
- 2.6.8 Enhance cooperation and exchange of information on major food commodities through strengthening the APT Food Security Information System (AFSIS);
- 2.6.9 Deepen cooperation so as to help address the challenges of sustainable forest management in the region through collaborative efforts, such as supporting global and regional initiatives, as appropriate, to reduce emissions from forest degradation and deforestation; strengthening cooperation on law enforcement to combat illegal logging and its associated trade; preventing forest fires; promoting reforestation of degraded lands; and encouraging a phased approach to forest certification;
- 2.6.10 Cooperate on fisheries and forest products development and promotion schemes; and
- 2.6.11 Promote regionalisation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries.

2.7 Enhancing Energy Cooperation

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- 2.7.1 Pursue energy security, sustainable development and economic growth in an integrated approach taking into account specific and diverse national circumstances;
- 2.7.2 Promote energy diversification through information exchanges and research on alternative, new and renewable energy development such as solar, hydro, geothermal, clean coal technology, biofuels, biomass, natural gas including shale gas, and others, taking into consideration each country's specific national circumstances; and for those Member countries which choose to do so, the use of civilian nuclear energy, while giving careful and due regards to the security, environmental, health and internationally-recognised safety standards of the energy source;
- 2.7.3 Endeavour to create a more favourable market environment with a view to creating efficient energy market, facilitating regional energy production and trade, and promoting investment in energy infrastructure and facilities;
- 2.7.4 Promote energy efficiency improvement and energy conservation in sectors, such as the industrial, transport, residential / commercial and power sectors, where possible, through the setting of individual goals and formulating action plans;
- 2.7.5 Enhance cooperation on emergency preparedness by making full use of the APT Energy Security Communication System;
- 2.7.6 Promote greater cooperation and market transparency, including through the Joint Organisations Data Initiative (JODI), and intensify the exchange of energy data, where possible, and the sharing of national energy policies on a voluntary basis;
- 2.7.7 Explore means of supporting the national rural electrification programmes of concerned ASEAN Member States;
- 2.7.8 Support the work of the ASEAN Centre for Energy;
- 2.7.9 Consider specific projects and proposals on energy issues raised within various regional processes such as the EAS and APEC;
- 2.7.10 Promote dialogue with Middle East oil and gas producing countries to enhance mutual understanding and cooperation between producing and consuming countries;
- 2.7.11 Promote cooperation for diversification of energy transportation routes to enhance energy security; and

- 2.7.12 Conduct collaborative activities to exchange experience and build capacity on the use of clean and environmentally-friendly technologies.
- 2.8 Enhancing Cooperation In Minerals
 - 2.8.1 Facilitate trade and investment in the mineral sector for mutual benefits, as well as forge closer cooperation in capacity building in the mineral sector;
 - 2.8.2 Enhance collaboration in research and development activities for the sustainable development of the mineral sector;
 - 2.8.3 Encourage private sector participation and public-private sector collaboration in the development and/or implementation of joint cooperation in programmes and activities related to the sustainable development of mineral resources in the region; and
 - 2.8.4 Promote technical information exchange, share experiences and best practices on, among others, the development of the ASEAN Mineral Database, scientific and technological research and development of geosciences, the sustainable development of mineral resources.
- 2.9 Promoting Small And Medium Enterprises (SMES)
 - 2.9.1 Foster a conducive business environment through encouraging information linkages to share and exchange knowledge and experience in both public and private sectors on policies and support programmes relating to SMEs, general management, finance, marketing, business development services and production technology, including but not limited to research and best practices;
 - 2.9.2 Promote cooperation among SMEs in the region through mutually accepted technology transfer, mentoring, market research, management skill training, meetings and exchanges between potential SMEs, and training programmes among APT countries;
 - 2.9.3 Explore e-commerce cooperation to enhance the collaboration, partnership, and internationalisation of SMEs within APT countries;
 - 2.9.4 Jointly identify and overcome barriers in SME business partnerships, including in market development and access to common markets; and
 - 2.9.5 Promote SME investments in ASEAN Member States, as well as alert SMEs to market opportunities in those countries; and
 - 2.9.6 Make full use of the regular Joint Consultations between the ASEAN SME Agencies and SME Agencies of the Plus Three countries to strengthen the exchange of information and best practices among the relevant authorities

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and institutions of SMEs, encourage market expansion, discuss investment opportunities, and identify new areas of cooperation.

2.10 Development Cooperation

- 2.10.1 Support the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) and other sub-regional endeavours such as the Cambodia-Lao PDR-Myanmar-Viet Nam (CLMV) cooperation, Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy (ACMECS), the ASEAN-Mekong Basin Development Cooperation (AMBDC), the Brunei Darussalam-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East ASEAN Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA), the Cambodia-Lao PDR-Viet Nam (CLV) Development Triangle, the Greater Mekong Sub Region (GMS), the Indonesia-Malaysia-Thailand Growth Triangle (IMT-GT) and the East-West Economic Corridor (EWEC) to narrow the development gaps in ASEAN in order to expedite regional integration;
- 2.10.2 Continue to develop resources and infrastructure jointly for growth areas and to continue mobilising and exploring the expansion of financial resources for development with active participation of the private sector and with further support from multilateral development banks; and
- 2.10.3 Promote development cooperation in accordance with international norms, rules and disciplines; and
- 2.10.4 Strengthen the support for human resource development in ICT sector to develop and upgrade ICT skills.

III. ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

3.1 Strengthening Cooperation In Environment And Sustainable Development

- 3.1.1 Forge closer cooperation in protecting and conserving the environment and promoting sustainable use of natural resources;
- 3.1.2 Forge closer cooperation in the following areas:
 - (a) transboundary environmental pollution reduction, particularly transboundary haze pollution and transboundary movement of hazardous wastes;
 - (b) biological diversity and natural heritage conservation and sustainable management;
 - (c) application of advanced and environment-friendly technologies and best

practices,

- (d) sustainable water resource management, including groundwater,
- (e) sustainable management of coastal and marine environment,
- (f) urban environmental management and governance, especially the ASEAN Initiative on Environmentally Sustainable Cities,
- (g) public awareness and education for sustainable development including environmental education,
- (h) multilateral environmental agreements, in particular climate change and chemical and chemical waste related conventions and partnerships, and
- (i) air quality management;

3.1.3 Enhance cooperation and coordination in capacity building in the area of environment through the following:

- (a) exchanges of information and experiences between and among government authorities, institutions and experts,
- (b) provision of training courses and scholarships and dissemination of information through seminars, workshops and conferences,
- (c) conducting joint research and development and networking among research / academic institutions, and
- (d) technology transfer;

3.1.4 Promote 3R (Reduce, Reuse and Recycle) and environmental sound management of waste; and

3.1.5 Promote sustainable development as a means to reduce negative aspects of development on the environment.

3.2 Strengthening Cooperation In Addressing The Impact Of Climate Change

3.2.1 Forge closer cooperation among APT countries to mitigate and adapt to climate change;

3.2.2 Strengthen cooperation, among others, in the development, transfer and diffusion of technologies to raise the capacity of APT countries to respond to climate change; and

3.2.3 Promote sharing of experiences in addressing socio-economic impacts of climate change, particularly on vulnerable groups.

IV. SOCIO-CULTURAL AND DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

4.1 Develop cooperative activities towards realising the UN Millennium Development

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Goals (MDGs), and consider supporting international efforts to develop a post-2015 development agenda; and

- 4.2** Strengthen the APT Cultural Cooperation Network (APTCNN), the East Asia Forum (EAF), the Network of East Asian Think Tanks (NEAT) and the Network of East Asian Studies (NEAS), and consider their recommendations as supplementary source of inputs for policy formulation that is based on research and inter-sectoral consultations.

4.3 Forging Closer Cooperation In Poverty Alleviation

4.3.1 Open APT countries' markets to the products of their poorer citizens, including assistance in marketing their products, in accordance with multilateral or bilateral agreements and arrangements, and provide assistance to education, skills training, knowledge-sharing, public health, microcredits, the protection of their work environment and the building of effective national and community institutions;

4.3.2 Establish benchmarks and monitoring mechanisms to measure progress toward the MDGs, extending assistance to enhance the capacity to enable such progress to be made, such as networks among "poverty alleviation facilitators", and poverty-related data collection and monitoring systems, and performance evaluation system for poverty alleviation programmes. Strengthen the dialogue on the Post-MDGs international development agenda;

4.3.3 Forge closer cooperation between ASEAN and the Plus Three countries in capacity building in the area of rural development and poverty eradication for government officials, experts, practitioners through information and experience sharing activities, people-to-people exchange programme, and training courses;

4.3.4 Strengthen the APT SOM on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication;

4.3.5 Monitor the effects of trade liberalisation and economic integration and urbanisation on rural development and poverty alleviation programme, including social protection systems and ICT as a tool for rural development and poverty alleviation;

4.3.6 Support efforts to develop rural community resilience and productivity amidst emerging risks of climate change, natural disasters and food security through capacity building of rural communities and small-scale producers, and promotion of sustainable rural livelihoods and sustainable crop production intensification; and

- 4.3.7 Support efforts to promote the roles and participation of stakeholders through, among others, capacity building, people-to-people exchange programmes and training courses in poverty alleviation and community empowerment for village leaders, local communities, and non-governmental organisations.
- 4.4 Promoting Development Of Vulnerable Groups
 - 4.4.1 Support efforts to provide care to and promote social welfare and development of vulnerable groups, such as children, women living under poverty, the elderly and persons with disabilities;
 - 4.4.2 Support efforts to ensure access of persons with disabilities to opportunities and protection against all forms of discrimination, including the promotion of their human rights;
 - 4.4.3 Support efforts to promote equality between men and women through equitable participation of women in all spheres of life and equitable distribution of benefits for women in the development process by eliminating all forms of discrimination against them;
 - 4.4.4 Strengthen cooperation in addressing challenges related to issues faced by the vulnerable groups, including unemployment, the increasing cost of living, street and domestic violence, and violence against women and children;
 - 4.4.5 Support efforts to ensure child survival and full development, safeguard their rights, and encourage meaningful participation of children in society;
 - 4.4.6 Support efforts to ensure adequate care for the elderly by promoting community-based approaches, and encourage elderly persons to contribute to the community;
 - 4.4.7 Strengthen cooperation in developing human and economic potential of vulnerable groups through capacity and capability development to enable them to face socio-economic uncertainties; and
 - 4.4.8 Share experiences and best practices on social security for vulnerable groups; and
 - 4.4.9 Promote the use of ICTs for women, children, the elderly and people with disabilities to enhance building social and economic community.
- 4.5 Building Capacity Of Civil Service
 - 4.5.1 Exchange experiences on key areas within public administration and reform, in particular, enhancement of human resource capabilities, promotion of effective and efficient civil service, public accountability, and good governance;

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- 4.5.2 Share expertise and know-how in civil service matters and capacity development among APT countries;
 - 4.5.3 Strengthen capacity development and knowledge in the respective civil services in the areas covered in the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Blueprint;
 - 4.5.4 Support effective implementation of the ASEAN Conference on Civil Service Matters (ACCSM) with the Plus Three Countries Work Plan (2012-2015); and
 - 4.5.5 Assist in reducing the gap in terms of capacity among ASEAN Member States.
- 4.6 Labour And Migrant Workers
- 4.6.1 Support the efforts to protect and promote labour rights, including the rights of migrant workers, and conditions of work, as well as to promote progressive labour practices in ASEAN Member States which take into account the ILO labour standards and international benchmarks, where appropriate;
 - 4.6.2 Establish closer cooperation in capacity building for government officials in the priority areas of labour inspections, occupational safety and health, labour dispute settlement system, social protection system, employment services as well as public health and HIV / AIDS in the workplace through sharing of information and experiences, promoting regional best practices, and policy dialogue;
 - 4.6.3 Promote effective and sound industrial relations in the region through regional and national social dialogues and sharing of good practices and experiences; and
 - 4.6.4 Promote the development of labour markets, greater labour mobility, employment opportunities, and decent work for all, through activities to improve labour market information systems and analysis, social insurance, skills and vocational training.
- 4.7 Promoting Culture And People-To-People Contact
- 4.7.1 Cooperate in the promotion of people-to-people contacts involving, inter alia, parliamentarians, government officials, academia, youth, media, cultural experts, sports persons and representatives of business, industries, and think tank institutions;
 - 4.7.2 Identify and address common concerns in the areas of cultural heritage management, human resources development in the cultural context, and small and medium-sized cultural enterprises development;
 - 4.7.3 Support efforts to engage civil society in developing a people-centered ASEAN

Community;

- 4.7.4 Promote cultural understanding and greater awareness of each other's culture, through regularly held cultural festivals, film festivals, art exhibitions, workshops and other events, such as the East Asia Week;
 - 4.7.5 Promote interaction, networking, and exchange of visits between government authorities involved in cultural affairs, as well as between cultural institutions, museums, archives and libraries, as well as artists, experts, practitioners in theatre, music, acrobatics, dance, folk art, and cinematography;
 - 4.7.6 Render mutual assistance and cooperation for the protection, preservation, and restoration of cultural and historical heritage, both tangible and intangible, according to the laws and regulations of each country, enhance cooperation to combat pillage, illicit trafficking and smuggling of moveable cultural property;
 - 4.7.7 Promote closer cooperation and collaboration between cultural, creative and design industries including joint venture and co-production;
 - 4.7.8 Promote research and policy dialogue on the impact of globalisation, modernisation and ICT revolution on youth with a view to exchanging lessons learned and best practices; and
 - 4.7.9 Intensify youth exchanges, for deeper mutual understanding and forging a sense of commonality, as well as continue to hold the APT Young Leaders Forum.
- 4.8 Enhancing Cooperation In Information And Media
- 4.8.1 Promote exchanges and cooperation in the area of journalism, including press, radio, and television;
 - 4.8.2 Promote cooperation and understanding among ASEAN and the Plus Three countries through news exchange and information / media persons exchange programmes;
 - 4.8.3 Hold consultations and dialogues on broadcasting issues and media policies;
 - 4.8.4 Conduct personnel training for the technicians and professionals in the TV and broadcasting sectors; and
 - 4.8.5 Promote cooperation in content generation, including digital content, through co-production.
- 4.9 Strengthening Cooperation In Education
- 4.9.1 Encourage investments in education and training to accelerate learning opportunities for out-of-school children and youth and to upgrade the quality of

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- educational institutions, including human resources development for teachers, lecturers and administrative personnel;
 - 4.9.2 Promote collaboration, networking, and research and development among institutions and authorities involved in education;
 - 4.9.3 Promote higher education cooperation, increase linkages between universities through the ASEAN University Network (AUN) and encourage credit transfers between universities in APT countries by establishing a working group on mobility and quality assurance in higher education under the existing APT mechanism on education;
 - 4.9.4 Support research activities and exchanges of APT scholars and professionals interested in the APT relationship;
 - 4.9.5 Continue to make efforts to expedite visa application procedures for students and intellectuals of ASEAN Member States who travel to the Plus Three countries for academic purposes, in accordance with existing national regulations;
 - 4.9.6 Cultivate an East Asian identity through promotion of ASEAN Studies and East Asian Studies in the region; and
 - 4.9.7 Promote education for sustainable development through various ways such as exchange of teachers and sharing of good practices.
- 4.10 Strengthening Cooperation In Science, Technology, And Innovation
- 4.10.1 Broaden cooperation between and among the scientific and technological communities, including on human resource development and networking on science, technology, and innovation, and promoting public-private partnership in APT countries;
 - 4.10.2 Promote and engage in joint capacity building activities, exchange of information, and sharing of best practices in areas such as science, technology and innovation policies, technology transfer, commercialisation, products and scientific standards, investment and IPR management;
 - 4.10.3 Promote research and technology development in areas of having potential for commercial applications such as biotechnology, food technology, new materials, microelectronics and information technology, marine resources, new and renewable energy, life science, medical devices and technology, and space technology;
 - 4.10.4 Strengthen cooperation in meteorology addressing climate information and

prediction services, weather observations and climate change; and

- 4.10.5 Raise the visibility of APT cooperation in science, technology and innovation through sustained efforts in promoting and participating in various initiatives of the APT Centre for the Gifted in Science (ACGS), the ASEAN Food Conference, ASEAN Science and Technology Week, and other relevant events such as science, technology, and innovation youth camp.
- 4.11 Strengthening Cooperation In Public Health
 - 4.11.1 Strengthen cooperation, including capacity building and technical assistance among APT countries as agreed by the APT Health Ministers' Meeting;
 - 4.11.2 Strengthen cooperation in capacity building in public health emergency disaster management including the response through whole-of-society approach;
 - 4.11.3 Promote networking among stakeholders in APT countries in the areas as agreed on the APT Health Ministers' Meeting;
 - 4.11.4 Promote research and development and human resources development in the areas related to public health, including joint research and development, seminars, workshops, training courses and study tours as well as exchange of visits and scholarships for officials, health professionals and experts;
 - 4.11.5 Enhance cooperation at the global and regional levels to prevent, control and reduce the impact of communicable and pandemic diseases;
 - 4.11.6 Promote collaboration, exchanging and sharing experiences on Universal Health Coverage through, but not limited to, the activities of the APT Network on Universal Health Coverage;
 - 4.11.7 Continue to improve ASEAN's emergency preparedness against the outbreak of pandemic influenza;
 - 4.11.8 Increase collaboration on prioritised activities to improve accessibility to safe, quality, affordable and effective medicines and to promote the rational use of medicines including containing anti-microbial drug resistance; and
 - 4.11.9 Intensify joint efforts in advocating, facilitating, and implementing relevant social and economic interventions in addressing non-communicable diseases and its risk factors including tobacco use, harmful use of alcohol and unhealthy diet, as well as sedentary life style.
 - 4.12 Disaster Management And Emergency Response
 - 4.12.1 Strengthen cooperation in the addressing issues related to floods, landslides, earthquakes and other disasters such as through assistance to support

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national and regional network of early warning systems for tsunamis and other disasters, including through real-time information sharing and public awareness campaigns;

4.12.2 Promote education and raise public awareness on disaster management;

4.12.3 Render assistance, including collaborating on crisis management, to implement the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response; and

4.12.4 Enhance civil-military cooperation, coordination, and capacity building in disaster relief.

4.13 Promoting Moderation

4.13.1 Promote moderation as a common value, and the empowerment of moderates in various religions as well as promote inter-faith and inter-cultural dialogue to enhance mutual understanding among different cultures and religions, as well as promote universal ideals of religious moderation and tolerance.

V. CONNECTIVITY COOPERATION

5.1 Support the implementation of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC);

5.2 Develop APT partnership to enhance connectivity through the timely implementation of the projects related to connectivity, in particular the 15 Priority Projects identified under the three-pronged strategies of the MPAC, namely physical, institutional, and people-to-people connectivity;

5.3 Explore the possibility of additional financing mechanisms / modalities under APT framework to support the implementation of ASEAN connectivity projects;

5.4 Study measures to promote infrastructure financing including private sector involvement and public-private partnership as well as multilateral development banks in connectivity projects;

5.5 Task our relevant Ministers to consider establishing study groups, through various mechanisms, to recommend ways and means to push forward APT partnership on Connectivity cooperation in relevant areas, covering the three-pronged strategies of the MPAC; and

5.6 Encourage the ASEAN Connectivity Coordinating Committee (ACCC) to work with the Plus Three countries to coordinate the efforts in connectivity under APT frameworks.

VI. INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT AND FOLLOW-UP MECHANISM

- 6.1 Continue strengthening the APT Cooperation Fund (APTCF);
- 6.2 Develop and conduct joint projects including the use of ICT to advance the objectives of this Plan, and, where appropriate, sub-regional activities and cooperative efforts that further the goals and objectives set forth in this Work Plan will be encouraged;
- 6.3 The ASEAN Secretariat to develop a schedule and time frame for implementation of this Work Plan as means to inform and monitor activities implemented to address measures under this Work Plan;
- 6.4 Develop appropriate monitoring and evaluation system / mechanism of the implementation of this Work Plan as well as project proposals, taking into account ASEAN's project management framework;
- 6.5 Regularly review this Work Plan through the existing mechanisms, with the ASEAN CPR Plus Three Meeting as the monitoring mechanism;
- 6.6 The ASEAN Coordinator for APT cooperation to prepare concise progress reports on the implementation of the Work Plan for submission to the annual APT Summit; and
- 6.7 Encourage ASEAN-China Centre, ASEAN-Japan Centre, and ASEAN-ROK Centre to exchange ideas and experiences in order to consolidate cooperative projects to promote trade, investment, tourism, cultural exchanges, and people-to-people contact between ASEAN and the Plus Three countries.

ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Work Plan

2018 – 2022

The ASEAN Plus Three (APT) Cooperation Work Plan 2018-2022 serves as a principal guide to enhance APT cooperation over the next five years towards achieving the long-term goal of establishing an East Asia community. Consistent with existing regional mechanisms, APT recognises ASEAN Centrality as the driving force in the evolving regional architecture. Building on the achievements of the previous APT Work Plan and taking into account recommendations of the East Asia Vision Group (EAVG) II, including the vision to realise an East Asia Economic Community by 2020, this Work Plan will help ASEAN realise the goals of its Community Vision 2025 as well as further strengthen the APT partnership.

I. POLITICAL AND SECURITY COOPERATION

1.1 Deepen political and security dialogue and cooperation through:

- (a) The annual APT Summit in conjunction with the ASEAN Summit and high level consultations;
- (b) Strengthening cooperation to promote good governance, rule of law and promotion of human rights;
- (c) Support for the implementation of the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration (AHRD) and the Phnom Penh Statement on the Adoption of the AHRD ("Phnom Penh Statement");
- (d) Exchange of information on regional efforts to advance human rights and fundamental freedoms in ASEAN;
- (e) Active participation at the relevant ASEAN-led mechanisms including the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus), and East Asia Summit (EAS) with the view to ensuring peace, security and stability in the region; and
- (f) Enhancing multilateral and regional cooperation in disarmament and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction including nuclear, biological and chemical weapons, and their means of delivery and related materials.

1.2 Combat transnational crimes, address other non-traditional security issues

through:

- (a) Exchange of visits and enhanced dialogue on law enforcement and security;
- (b) Cooperation in:
 - (i) Combating trafficking in persons and support for the implementation of the ASEAN Convention Against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (ACTIP) and the ASEAN Plan of Action and the ASEAN Plan of Action Against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (APA),
 - (ii) Combating and suppressing cybercrimes and promoting cybersecurity cooperation to create a resilient and secure regional cyberspace through:
 - a) Enhancing coordination of incident response procedures among law enforcement agencies and criminal justice authorities to promote timely and effective handling of cybersecurity incidents, and
 - b) Increasing law enforcement capacity building and coordination on cybersecurity in dealing with increasingly sophisticated cyber threats,
 - (iii) Addressing emerging transnational crimes, such as illicit trafficking of wildlife and timber as well as migrant smuggling, trafficking in persons and other transnational crimes in accordance with relevant international conventions and with each countries' national circumstances;
- (c) Cooperation among law enforcement in relation to extradition and mutual legal assistance, in accordance with the domestic laws of APT countries and other relevant treaties;
- (d) Combating illicit drug trafficking under the framework of Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC) Plus Three Working Group on Narcotics to eradicate the scourge of drugs;
- (e) Supporting ASEAN in securing communities against illicit drugs and realising the region's aspiration of a "Drug-Free ASEAN"; and
- (f) Exploring cooperation between APT and the Bali Process on people smuggling, trafficking in persons and related transnational crimes while ensuring ASEAN Centrality.

1.3 Counter terrorism and violent extremism through:

- (a) Addressing the root causes of terrorism and conditions to terrorism, violent extremism and radicalisation;
- (b) Sharing information on terrorists and transnational criminal organisations, including their leaders and members, operational methods and supporting infrastructures, linkages, as well as criminal activities;
- (c) Implementing measures to combat money laundering and terrorist financing,

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to better detect, analyse, investigate and prosecute, in accordance with the Financial Action Task Force (FATF)'s recommendations;

- (d) Working towards the elimination of smuggling of small arms and light weapons, as a major contribution to the national and international efforts of counter terrorism;
- (e) Enhancing cooperation in the field of border management to help identify terrorist suspects and their supporters as well as deterring the flow of foreign terrorist fighters and terrorism-related funds and materials; and
- (f) Supporting the effective implementation of and the accession to relevant international conventions and protocols on counter terrorism.

1.4 Enhance maritime cooperation through:

- (a) Cooperative activities, such as safety of navigation, in accordance with the relevant international and regional treaties and agreements including the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), as well as capacity building assistance and technical cooperation projects; and
- (b) Fighting against piracy, armed robbery against ships, hijacking and smuggling, as well as to address transboundary challenges, in accordance with relevant international laws including through cooperation with relevant regional cooperative frameworks, with respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of APT countries.

1.5 Promote moderation as a common value through:

- (a) Empowerment of moderates in various religions;
- (b) Promotion of inter-faith and inter-cultural dialogue to enhance mutual understanding among different cultures and religions; and
- (c) Promotion of universal ideals of religious moderation and tolerance.

II. ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL COOPERATION

2.1 Promote trade and investment through:

- (a) Promoting the full utilisation of ASEAN Plus One FTA with China, and the Republic of Korea as well as the ASEAN-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership;
- (b) Cooperative measures and actions for promoting attractive environment for investment as well as mutual investment, conducting capacity building activities, and sharing best practices and experiences;
- (c) The swift conclusion of negotiations toward establishing a modern, comprehensive, high quality and mutually beneficial Regional Comprehensive

Economic Partnership (RCEP), to facilitate economic activities among ASEAN and its Free Trade Agreement partners which includes the Plus Three countries;

- (d) Improving customs procedures and expediting customs clearance and release, using ASEAN Single Window as a basis;
- (e) Conduct of a study to promote mutually beneficial trade and investment cooperation to all APT countries;
- (f) Strengthening the role of the East Asia Business Council (EABC) through private sector recommendations in promoting business interaction in the region and where relevant to continue to support the initiatives by the EABC;
- (g) Enhancing the role of the ASEAN-China Centre, ASEAN-Japan Centre and ASEAN-Korea Centre in promoting trade and investment in the context of the APT cooperation;
- (h) Encouraging collaboration among the EABC, ASEAN-China Centre, ASEAN-Japan Centre and ASEAN-Korea Centre to promote trade and investment in the APT context; and
- (i) Encouraging cooperation between the ASEAN + 1 Business Councils, the EABC and the Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat to explore areas of mutual interest with a view to promoting deeper regional integration and further enhance the work and initiatives of APT cooperation.

2.2 Maintain financial market stability in the region through:

- (a) Strengthening the Chiang Mai Initiative Multilateralisation (CMIM) as an essential part of the regional financial safety net;
- (b) Supporting the ASEAN+3 Macroeconomic Research Office (AMRO) to strengthen its conduct of regional economic surveillance and its operational capacity to support the implementation of CMIM as a credible and effective regional financing facility;
- (c) Supporting the Asian Bond Markets Initiative (ABMI)'s contribution to the development of the local currency bond markets across the region; and
- (d) Promoting the issuance of government and corporate bonds denominated in local currency and strengthening the functions of the Credit Guarantee and Investment Facility (CGIF).

2.3 Promote sustainable tourism and people-to-people connectivity through:

- (a) The implementation of the Memorandum of Cooperation between the Governments of the Member States of ASEAN and the Government of the Plus Three Countries on Strengthening Tourism Cooperation;
- (b) Developing quality, responsible, sustainable, accessible, inclusive and balanced

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tourism;

- (c) Establishing information sharing mechanisms on tourism statistics and strategic planning, investment opportunities, economic data and tourism-related risk management, as well as the involvement of private sector in tourism in the region;
- (d) Tourism education, capacity building and personnel training to support quality, sustainable, inclusive and balanced tourism;
- (e) Exchange among media agencies and journalists among ASEAN Plus Three countries;
- (f) Upgrade of tourism-related infrastructure and services;
- (g) Effective measures to attract new and additional resources for tourism investment; and
- (h) Conduct of joint tour programmes, promotion of intra-regional travel through visa facilitation, as well as an East Asian volunteers' programme.

2.4 Enhance cooperation in food, agriculture and forestry through:

- (a) Dialogue, exchanges of information, capacity building, and sharing of best practices in key areas of mutual interests;
- (b) Support for the effective implementation of the ASEAN Integrated Food Security (AIFS) Framework and the Strategic Plan of Action on Food Security in the ASEAN Region (SPA-FS), 2015-2020 and collaboration with relevant ASEAN bodies in implementing the ASEAN Food Safety Policy (AFSP);
- (c) Ensuring food security within the region through the further implementation of the Tier 3 program and encouragement of the utilization of Tier 1 and Tier 2 programs of the Agreement on APT Emergency Rice Reserve (APTERR);
- (d) The convening of the regular APT Food Security Cooperation Strategic Roundtable Conference;
- (e) Strengthening the monitoring and forecasting related to the supply and demand of rice within the region;
- (f) Exchange of information on major food commodities through strengthening the ASEAN Food Security Information System (AFSIS);
- (g) Opportunities for ASEAN farmers, including young farmers, and those engaged in agribusiness to learn and develop more efficient farming practices and management skills;
- (h) Conduct of activities under the APT Bioenergy and Food Security Framework 2015 – 2025 to assist ASEAN Member States in ensuring sustainable, food-secure and climate-friendly bioenergy;
- (i) Cooperation on fisheries and forest products development and promotion

schemes, as well as promotion of regionalisation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and combating illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing;

- (j) Engagement of private sector in policy discussions, programme and project formulation, research and development (R&D);
- (k) Providing incentives and fostering an enabling environment for public-private partnerships (PPPs) towards enhancing productivity and quality;
- (l) Development of new and appropriate technologies, best practices, and resource management systems to ensure food safety and address health/disease and environmental issues, particularly in the fast growing aquaculture, livestock and horticulture sub-sectors;
- (m) Implementation of competition policies to ensure a level playing field for producers and MSMEs and prevent unfair exploitation by large firms with market power in integrated supply chains, particularly in the food, agriculture and forestry sector;
- (n) Support for the efforts of ASEAN to establish regional agreements on timber trade and promote cooperation with ASEAN's external partners in the global timber trade; and
- (o) Strengthening of forest law enforcement and governance.

2.5 Enhance energy security and cooperation through:

- (a) Information exchanges and research on alternative, new and renewable energy;
- (b) Efforts to create a more favourable market environment for efficient energy markets, regional energy production and trade, investments in energy infrastructure and facilities;
- (c) Efforts to promote a competitive, transparent and flexible market of natural gas including LNG, facilitate infrastructure investment and promote new natural gas demand for the benefit of all securing energy security and creating growth opportunity in the region and supporting the implementation of ASEAN Plan of Action for Energy Cooperation (APAEC) 2016-2022;
- (d) Promotion of energy efficiency and conservation;
- (e) Promotion of greater cooperation and market transparency, including through the Joint Organisations Data Initiative (JODI), exchange of energy data, where possible, and sharing of national energy policies on a voluntary basis;
- (f) Exploring ways to supporting the national rural electrification programmes of concerned ASEAN Member States;
- (g) Capacity building on the improvement of energy safety management systems;

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- (h) Support for the implementation of activities and programs in coordination with and supportive of the strategic measures under the ASEAN Plan of Action of Energy Cooperation 2016-2025 (APAEC) Phase 1 (2016-2020) or its successor plans;
- (i) Support for the work of the ASEAN Centre for Energy; and
- (j) Conduct of collaborative activities to exchange best practices, share experiences and build capacity on the use of clean and environmentally-friendly energy technologies.

2.6 Enhance cooperation in minerals through:

- (a) Facilitating trade and investment in the mineral sector for mutual benefits, as well as closer cooperation in capacity building in the mineral sector;
- (b) Research and development activities for the sustainable development of the mineral sector;
- (c) Encouraging private sector participation and public-private sector collaboration in conducting programmes and activities related to the sustainable development of mineral resources in the region;
- (d) Promotion of technical information exchange, share experiences and best practices on, among others, the development of the ASEAN Mineral Database, scientific and technological research and development of geosciences, the sustainable development of mineral resources; and
- (e) Support for the implementation of plans and programs in coordination with and supportive of the strategic measures under the ASEAN Minerals Cooperation Action Plan 2016-2025 (AMCAP–III) Phase 1 2016-2020 or its successor plans.

2.7 Promote sustainable development of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) through:

- (a) Regular Joint Consultations between the ASEAN SME Agencies and SME Agencies of the Plus Three countries to strengthen the exchange of information and best practices among the relevant authorities and institutions of SMEs, encourage market expansion, discuss investment opportunities, and identify new areas of cooperation;
- (b) Support for the implementation of the ASEAN Strategic Action Plan for SME Development (2016-2025), including sharing of best practices, experiences, on the development of MSMEs as well as convening of capacity building programmes, seminars, workshops, and symposiums;
- (c) Policy consultations and exchange of expertise between the concerned authorities, including relevant stakeholders on MSMEs and MSMEs cooperation;
- (d) Cooperation in traditional areas, including trade, agriculture and tourism,

and relevant new areas conducive to economic growth such as environment, energy, digital economy, human resource development, education, science and technology;

- (e) Explore the proposal for an APT SMEs service alliance in consultation with relevant sectoral bodies; and
- (f) Empowerment of MSMEs through better access to financing and markets as well as other relevant means of support.

2.8 Strengthen cooperation in science, technology, and innovation (STI) through:

- (a) Exploring cooperation in human resource development and networking on STI, and promotion of public-private partnership;
- (b) Exploring joint capacity building activities, exchange of information, and sharing of best practices in areas of mutual interest such as STI policies, technology transfer, commercialisation, products and scientific standards, investment and IPR management;
- (c) Promotion of research and technology development in areas with potential for commercial applications such as biotechnology, food technology, new materials, microelectronics and information technology, marine resources, new and renewable energy, life science, medical devices and technology, and space technology;
- (d) Cooperation in meteorology addressing climate information and prediction services, weather observations and climate change; and
- (e) Promotion and/or participation in relevant STI events, for example, the APT Centre for the Gifted in Science (ACGS), the ASEAN Food Conference, ASEAN Science and Technology Week, and science, technology, and innovation youth camps.

III. SOCIO-CULTURAL COOPERATION

3.1 Protect and conserve the environment and promote sustainable use of natural resources through:

- (a) Closer cooperation in the following areas:
 - (i) Support ASEAN efforts in the prevention and reduction of environmental pollution, particularly marine and coastal pollution, transboundary movement of hazardous wastes and transboundary haze pollution through ASEAN agreements and decisions,
 - (ii) Support APT environment cooperation mechanisms such as the ASEAN Plus Three Senior Officials Meeting on Environment (APT SOME) and

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- ASEAN Plus Three Environment Ministers Meeting (APT EMM),
- (iii) Conservation of biological diversity and natural heritage and sustainable management,
 - (iv) Application of advanced and environment-friendly technologies and best practices,
 - (v) Sustainable water resource management, including groundwater,
 - (vi) Sustainable management of coastal and marine environment,
 - (vii) Management and governance of urban environment, especially the ASEAN Initiative on Environmentally Sustainable Cities,
 - (viii) Public awareness and Education for Sustainable Development including environmental education, and
 - (ix) Implementation of multilateral environmental agreements, in particular climate change, chemical and chemical waste-related conventions and partnerships;
- (b) Capacity building through:
 - (i) exchanges of information and experiences between and among government authorities, institutions and experts,
 - (ii) provision of training courses and scholarships and dissemination of information through seminars, workshops and conferences,
 - (iii) conducting joint research and development and networking among research/academic institutions, and
 - (iv) technology transfer;
 - (c) Promotion of 3Rs (Reduce, Reuse and Recycle) and environmental sound management of waste; and
 - (d) Promotion of sustainable development to reduce negative aspects of development on the environment.

3.2 Address the impact of climate change through:

- (a) Closer cooperation among APT countries in mitigation and adaption to climate change, as well as development, transfer and diffusion of technologies to raise capacity to respond to climate change; and
- (b) Promotion of sharing of experiences, including community-based mitigation and adaptation, in addressing socio-economic impacts of climate change, particularly on vulnerable groups.

3.3 Forge closer cooperation in poverty alleviation for sustainable development through:

- (a) Support for the implementation of the Framework Action Plan on Rural

Development and Poverty Eradication 2016-2025;

- (b) Building knowledge and capacities on the thematic areas of rural economic growth; social protection and social safety nets; development of infrastructure and human resources in rural and peri-urban areas; resilience of the poor and vulnerable groups to economic and environmental risks; public-private-people partnerships; and
- (c) Strengthening public-private-people partnerships through capacity building and technical exchange programme for village and/or community leaders from APT Countries.

3.4 Strengthen social welfare and development through:

- (a) The implementation of the ASEAN Strategic Framework Action Plan on Social Welfare and Development 2016-2020;
- (b) The implementation of the Regional Framework and Action Plan to implement ASEAN Declaration on Strengthening Social Protection by 2025;
- (c) Promotion and protection of the rights, and enhancing the opportunities and participation of persons with disabilities for inclusive societies;
- (d) Promotion of the survival, protection, participation and development of children;
- (e) Addressing challenges related to issues faced by the vulnerable groups, including unemployment, the need to increase the coverage of social protection, the increasing cost of living, movement from rural to urban centres, street and domestic violence, and violence against women and children;
- (f) Development of social protection policies for increased access and sustainability, and share experiences and best practices on social protection for vulnerable groups;
- (g) Development of human and economic potential of vulnerable groups through capacity and capability development;
- (h) Strengthening the resilience of families and caregivers in societies, and enhancing the participation and social responsibility of stakeholders;
- (i) Promotion of the use of ICTs for women, children, the elderly and persons with disabilities, and other vulnerable groups, to enhance building social and economic community; and
- (j) Strengthening demographic policy by sharing information and conducting joint research to respond to the demographic problems.

3.5 Promote Active Ageing through:

- (a) Promotion of healthy, active and productive ageing in an enabling and supportive environment, towards implementing the Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Ageing:

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Empowering Older Persons in ASEAN and the ASEAN Plus Three Statement on Active Ageing;

- (b) Sharing information and experiences of the ageing in APT and exploring how APT can conduct regional cooperation involving non-governmental organisations and the private sector;
- (c) Strengthening the capacities of governments, corporate bodies, civil society organisations, communities and stakeholders in delivering adequate care for older persons, including the development of human capital and expertise;
- (d) Development of older people's associations and other forms of networking;
- (e) Promotion of age-friendly communities and cities through sustainable and accessible infrastructures;
- (f) Cooperation in sharing of expertise on designing senior-friendly environment;
- (g) Support for ASEAN's effort in developing an ASEAN regional action plan on ageing to develop capacities of ASEAN Member States in effectively addressing issues arising from ageing society; and
- (h) Promotion of collaboration in research and development on elderly health issues identified as priorities by APT countries.

3.6 Promote women empowerment and gender equality through:

- (a) Enhancement of regional cooperation to improve the protection and empowerment of women, especially those in vulnerable situations including the elderly, persons with disabilities, women living with HIV/AIDS, internally displaced persons, and women at risk or victims of gender-based violence, pursuant to the implementation of the ACW Work Plan 2016-2020;
- (b) Promotion of the leadership of women in the political sphere and the public and private sectors;
- (c) Enhancement of the economic empowerment of women, women entrepreneurs, including young women and especially those in the micro-, small- and medium-enterprises as well as the informal sector;
- (d) Promotion of gender-sensitivity and eliminate gender-stereotyping in primary, secondary and tertiary levels in public schools, and raising understanding and awareness of media practitioners on gender equality;
- (e) Mainstreaming of gender analysis and women's perspectives in regional initiatives, including those on ensuring decent work, social protection, and building resilience; and
- (f) Support for the implementation of the Regional Plan of Action on the Elimination of Violence Against Women (RPA-EVAW) and Regional Plan of Action on the

Elimination of Violence Against Children (RPA-VAC), as well as initiatives to promote and protect the rights of women and children in the ACWC Work Plan 2016-2020.

3.7 Build capacity of civil service through:

- (a) Exchange of experiences and best practices on key areas within public administration and reform, enhancement of human resource capabilities, promotion of effective and efficient civil service, public accountability, and good governance;
- (b) Sharing expertise and know-how in civil service matters and capacity development among APT countries; and
- (c) Support for the efficient and effective implementation of the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation on Civil Service Matters (ACCSM+3) Work Plan 2016-2020.

3.8 Promote cooperation on labour and migrant workers through:

- (a) Support for the implementation of the ASEAN Labour Ministers' Work Programme 2016-2020;
- (b) Support efforts to protect and promote labour rights, including the rights of migrant workers, promote occupational safety and health, as well as promote progressive labour practices taking into account relevant international instruments and each country's national circumstances as appropriate;
- (c) Closer cooperation in capacity building for government officials in the thematic areas of gender mainstreaming of labour sector, labour dimension of sustainable development, functional social dialogue, and emerging labour trends;
- (d) Closer cooperation to improve workforce competitiveness, productivity, and productive employment by, among others, supporting the implementation of the Action Plan on Strategic Programs to Produce a Qualified, Competent and Well-equipped Labour Force;
- (e) Promotion of harmonious, safe and progressive workplace with adequate social protection; and
- (f) Encourage discussion on mobility of labour and its influence on economies and other related issues, taking into account the respective circumstances of each country.

3.9 Enhance cultural exchange and cooperation through:

- (a) Exchange of experts and expertise in culture, traditional and contemporary art and heritage preservation activities;
- (b) Human resource development and training in the cultural field, including through the exchange of experiences on the hosting of large-scale cultural activities;

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- (c) Promotion of cultural understanding and greater awareness of each other's culture, through cultural festivals, film festivals, art exhibitions, workshops and other events;
- (d) Promotion of interaction, networking, and exchange of visits between government authorities involved in cultural affairs, as well as between cultural institutions, museums, archives and libraries, as well as artists, experts, practitioners in theatre, music, acrobatics, dance, folk art, and cinematography;
- (e) Rendering assistance and support for the protection, preservation, and restoration of cultural and historical heritage;
- (f) Collaboration between cultural, creative and design industries including joint venture and co-production; and
- (g) City level dialogue and collaboration between the East Asian Cultural Cities and the ASEAN City of Culture, where appropriate.

3.10 Enhance cooperation in youth exchanges and sports through:

- (a) Research and policy dialogue on the impact of globalisation, modernisation and ICT revolution on youth with a view to exchanging lessons learned and best practices;
- (b) Youth exchanges for deeper mutual understanding and forging a sense of commonality, as well as APT Educational Forum and Young Speakers' Contest, and the APT Youth Cultural Forum;
- (c) Promotion of the spirit of youth volunteerism through partnerships with APT members to inculcate a stronger APT community spirit among APT youth by involving them in community development projects;
- (d) Promotion of ASEAN and East Asian traditional games and sports to foster greater understanding of the heritage of such sports, and to enhance closer people-to-people exchanges; and
- (e) Engagement of youth in mutually beneficial sports exchange programmes.

3.11 Enhance capacity in information and media through:

- (a) Exchanges and cooperation in the area of journalism, including press, radio, and television;
- (b) News exchange and information/media persons exchange programmes;
- (c) Consultations, dialogues and forums on journalism and broadcasting issues and media policies;
- (d) Personnel training for the technicians and professionals in the TV and broadcasting sectors, and print and media journalists;
- (e) Cooperation in content generation, including digital content, through co-

production; and

- (f) Cooperation of East Asian public broadcasting stations of ASEAN and Plus Three countries.

3.12 Strengthen education systems and improve access to education through:

- (a) Cooperation in promoting universal basic education, including improving quality of primary and secondary education and accelerating learning opportunities for out-of-school children and youth;
- (b) Cooperation in research and development among APT higher education institutions and research agencies;
- (c) Encouraging credit transfers and mutual recognition of qualification on voluntary basis between universities in APT countries by sustaining the existing APT Working Group on Mobility of Higher Education and Ensuring Quality Assurance of Higher Education;
- (d) Encouraging the ASEAN+3 University Network (ASEAN+3 UNet) to complement and support the ASEAN University Network platform;
- (e) Enhancing efforts to expedite visa application procedures for students and intellectuals who travel between ASEAN Member States and the Plus Three countries for academic purposes, in accordance with existing national regulations;
- (f) Encouraging greater promotion of student exchanges and mobility and quality assurance of higher education through the ongoing APT Working Group on Mobility of Higher Education and Ensuring Quality Assurance of Higher Education;
- (g) Cultivation of an East Asian identity through promotion of ASEAN Studies and East Asian Studies in the region;
- (h) Promotion of Education for Sustainable Development through various approaches such as strengthening cross-sectoral collaboration, establishing scholars networks, promoting multi-disciplinary research, ways such as exchange of teachers and sharing of good practices; and
- (i) Strengthening cooperation in diplomatic education and training through Annual Meeting of Deans and Directors of diplomatic training institutions of APT countries.

3.13 Strengthen cooperation in public health through:

- (a) Capacity building, technical assistance and networking among APT countries in the areas as agreed by the APT Health Ministers' Meeting and as stated in the relevant APT Joint Statements;
- (b) Capacity building in public health emergency disaster management including the response through whole-of-society approach;

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- (c) Promotion of research and development and human resources development in the areas related to public health;
- (d) Cooperation at the global and regional levels to prevent, control and reduce the impact of communicable and emerging infectious diseases including pandemics;
- (e) Collaboration, exchange of experiences on Universal Health Coverage;
- (f) Improving ASEAN's emergency preparedness against the outbreak of pandemic influenza and other emerging health threats;
- (g) Conduct of activities to improve accessibility to safe, quality, affordable and effective medicines and to promote the rational use of medicines including containing anti-microbial drug resistance;
- (h) Collaboration in the area of traditional medicines; and
- (i) Joint efforts in advocating, facilitating, and implementing relevant social and economic interventions in addressing non-communicable diseases and its risk factors including tobacco use, harmful use of alcohol and unhealthy diet, as well as sedentary life style.

3.14 Promote cooperation in disaster management and emergency response through:

- (a) Support for the Implementation of the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) and its Work Programme; and
- (b) Support for the realisation of the ASEAN Vision on Disaster Management, ASEAN Declaration on One ASEAN, One Response: ASEAN Responding to Disaster as One in the region and outside the region and implementation of ASEAN Joint Disaster Response Plan.

IV. CONNECTIVITY COOPERATION

- 4.1 Promote regional connectivity in East Asia; and
- 4.2 Promote cooperative activities, including joint projects and capacity building programmes, to support successful implementation of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity 2025.

V. SUPPORT FOR INITIATIVE FOR ASEAN INTEGRATION

- 5.1 Provide support for ASEAN to narrow the development gap and accelerate regional integration among its member states through the implementation of the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) Work Plan III.

VI. TRACK 1.5 AND TRACK 2 COOPERATION

- 6.1 Engage various stakeholders to reflect their views in the process of East Asia community building; and
- 6.2 Strengthen the East Asia Forum (EAF) and the Network of East Asian Think Tanks (NEAT), and consider their recommendations as supplementary source of inputs for policy formulation that is based on research and inter-sectoral consultations.

VII. INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT AND FOLLOW-UP MECHANISM

- 7.1 Continue strengthening the APT Cooperation Fund (APTCF);
- 7.2 The ASEAN Secretariat will develop a schedule and time frame for implementation of this Work Plan as means to inform and monitor activities implemented to address measures under this Work Plan;
- 7.3 Develop and implement projects in line with ASEAN's project management framework;
- 7.4 Review the Work Plan through the existing mechanisms, with the ASEAN CPR Plus Three Meeting as the monitoring mechanism;
- 7.5 The ASEAN Coordinator for APT cooperation will prepare concise progress report on the implementation of the Work Plan for submission to the annual APT Summit; and
- 7.6 Encourage ASEAN-China Centre, ASEAN-Japan Centre, and ASEAN-Korea Centre to exchange ideas, experiences and explore possible joint projects to promote trade, investment, tourism, cultural exchanges, and people-to-people contact between ASEAN and the Plus Three countries.

ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Work Plan

2023 – 2027

The ASEAN Plus Three (APT) Cooperation Work Plan 2023-2027 serves as a principal guide to enhance APT cooperation over the next five years towards achieving the long-term goal of establishing an East Asia community with ASEAN as the driving force. Consistent with existing regional mechanisms, APT recognises ASEAN Centrality as the driving force in the evolving regional architecture. Building on the achievements of the previous APT Work Plan, this Work Plan will help ASEAN realise the goals of its Community Vision 2025 as well as its successor document. This Work Plan is also aimed to further strengthen the APT partnership in accordance with the principles of the ASEAN Charter and the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC), as well as the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP).

I. POLITICAL AND SECURITY COOPERATION

1.1 Deepen political and security dialogue and cooperation through:

- (a) The annual APT Summit in conjunction with the ASEAN Summit and high-level consultations;
- (b) Strengthening cooperation to promote good governance, rule of law, promotion and protection of human rights;
- (c) Support for the implementation of the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration (AHRD) and the Phnom Penh Statement on the Adoption of the AHRD ("Phnom Penh Statement");
- (d) Exchange of information and practices on regional efforts to advance human rights and fundamental freedoms in ASEAN;
- (e) Active participation of the APT countries at the relevant ASEAN-led mechanisms including the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus), and East Asia Summit (EAS) with the view to ensuring peace, security, and stability in the region;
- (f) Enhancing cooperation in the United Nations, Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM), as well as in other international and regional mechanisms, on issues of mutual

interests;

- (g) Enhancing multilateral and regional cooperation in disarmament and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction including nuclear, biological and chemical weapons, and their means of delivery and related materials.
- (h) Promoting awareness on the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda among the APT countries to enhance the welfare and participation of women in all aspects of peacebuilding and protect them from armed conflict and violent extremism; and
- (i) Promoting cooperation and support in mainstreaming the Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) agenda through relevant mechanisms, and encourage countries in crafting and executing their respective action plans on YPS.

1.2 Combat transnational crimes, address other non-traditional security issues through:

- (a) Strengthening dialogue and cooperation in combatting transnational crimes and addressing non-traditional security issues, such as trafficking in persons, people smuggling, cybercrime, and illicit drug trafficking;
- (b) Support for the effective implementation of the ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC) Work Programmes to Implement the ASEAN Plan of Action to Combat Transnational Crime as guided by the processes and procedures under the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (AMMTC) and its working mechanisms;
- (c) Exchange of visits and enhanced dialogue on law enforcement and security to promote cooperation on ways to tackle aspects of transnational crime of mutual concerns, including through the framework of the AMMTC+3 Consultation;
- (d) Cooperation in:
 - (i) Combating trafficking in persons and support for the implementation of the ASEAN Convention Against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (ACTIP), the ASEAN Plan of Action Against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (APA) and other cross-sectoral work plans to combat trafficking in persons;
 - (ii) Protecting children from all forms of online exploitation and abuse, particularly, the proliferation of child sexual abuse materials (CSAM) or any other form of online child exploitation;
 - (iii) Combating and suppressing cybercrimes and promoting cybersecurity cooperation to create a peaceful, interoperable, resilient and secure regional cyberspace through:

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- a) Enhancing coordination of incident response procedures among law enforcement agencies and criminal justice authorities to promote timely and effective handling of cybercrime incidents, and
 - b) Increasing law enforcement capacity building and coordination on cybercrime in dealing with increasingly sophisticated cyber threats;
 - (iv) Addressing emerging transnational crimes, such as illicit trafficking of wildlife and timber, in accordance with relevant international conventions and with domestic laws and regulations of each APT country; and
 - (v) Strengthening cooperation on border management and immigration matters through the newly established ASEAN Directors-General of Immigration Departments and Heads of Consular Affairs Divisions of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs Plus Three (DGICM+3) Consultation.
- (e) Cooperation among law enforcement in relation to extradition and mutual legal assistance, in accordance with the domestic laws of APT countries and other relevant treaties;
 - (f) Combating illicit drugs under the framework of ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Drug Matters Plus Three (ASOD+3) Consultation to eradicate the scourge of drugs;
 - (g) Supporting ASEAN in securing communities against illicit drugs, by promoting communities free of drug abuse, despite the shift in drug policies seen in other parts of the world advocating the de-criminalisation or legalisation of drugs and realising the region's aspiration of a "Drug- Free ASEAN" through a zero-tolerance approach to illicit drugs, due regard to human rights and in accordance with the prevailing laws and regulations of each APT country; and
 - (h) Exploring cooperation between APT and the Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crimes while ensuring ASEAN Centrality.

1.3 Counter terrorism and violent extremism through:

- (a) Support for the effective implementation of the ASEAN Convention on Counter Terrorism;
- (b) Addressing the root causes of terrorism and conditions to terrorism, violent extremism and radicalisation, including through the effective implementation of the ASEAN Plan of Action to Prevent and Counter the Rise of Radicalisation and Violent Extremism 2018-2025 and its corresponding Bali Work Plan 2019-2025;
- (c) Sharing information on terrorists and transnational criminal organisations, including their leaders and members, operational methods and supporting

infrastructures, linkages, as well as criminal activities;

- (d) Implementing measures to combat money laundering and terrorist financing, to better detect, analyse, investigate and prosecute, in accordance with the Financial Action Task Force (FATF)'s recommendations;
- (e) Working towards the elimination of smuggling of small arms and light weapons, as a major contribution to the national and international efforts of counter-terrorism;
- (f) Enhancing cooperation in the field of border management to help identify terrorist suspects and their supporters as well as deterring the flow of foreign terrorist fighters and terrorism-related funds and materials; and
- (g) Supporting the effective implementation of and the accession to relevant international conventions and protocols on counter terrorism.

1.4 Enhance maritime cooperation through:

- (a) Cooperative activities, such as safety of navigation, in accordance with the relevant international and regional treaties and agreements including the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), as well as capacity building assistance and technical cooperation projects; and
- (b) Fighting against piracy, armed robbery against ships, hijacking and smuggling, as well as addressing transboundary challenges, in accordance with relevant international laws including through cooperation with relevant regional cooperative frameworks, with respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of APT countries.

II. ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL COOPERATION

2.1 Promote trade and investment through:

- (a) Promoting the full implementation and effective utilisation of ASEAN Plus One FTAs with China and the Republic of Korea, the ASEAN-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership (AJCEP) Agreement, and the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP);
- (b) Promoting the use of technology-based trade facilitation through the possible upgrading of the ASEAN Plus One FTAs with China and the Republic of Korea and through economic cooperation under the ASEAN- China FTA (ACFTA), ASEAN-Korea FTA (AKFTA), and the ASEAN- Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership (AJCEP) Agreement;
- (c) Strengthening cooperation for effective implementation and full utilisation of the ACFTA, AKFTA, AJCEP and RCEP Agreement to deliver benefits to businesses,

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- especially Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and people in the region, including the possibility of collaboration with East Asia Business Council (EABC) on relevant promotions and capacity- building activities;
- (d) Strengthening collaboration and cooperation between APT Countries in the areas of economic and financial resilience, trade facilitation, investment, digital trade, MSMEs, green recovery, sustainable economy, and in securing sustainable, resilient, and inclusive regional supply chains, connectivity and digital empowerment, inclusion and transformation, amongst others, as well as preparing the region for future challenges, and achieving post-pandemic economic recovery;
 - (e) Support for the implementation of the ACRF and its Implementation Plan which serve as a consolidated strategy for ASEAN to emerge more resilient and stronger from the COVID-19 crisis, giving due consideration to the hardest hit sectors and vulnerable groups;
 - (f) Cooperative measures and actions for promoting attractive environment for investment including capacity building activities, and sharing of best practices to enhance investment flows;
 - (g) Promoting an open, fair, free, inclusive, transparent, predictable and non-discriminatory rules-based multilateral trading system, with the WTO at its core; and enhancing the efficiency of free flow of goods, supply chain connectivity and services, and to remove unnecessary barriers to trade or disruptions of global and regional supply; and avoiding unilateral and protectionist measures inconsistent with WTO rules and other applicable trade agreements;
 - (h) Promoting cooperation on WTO reform to enhance its effectiveness, transparency and resilience in addressing global economic challenges, including the COVID-19 pandemic;
 - (i) Enhancing customs procedures and expediting customs clearance and release, utilising digital technologies and platforms such as the ASEAN Single Window as a basis;
 - (j) Enhancing collaboration among government and regional research institutions and think-tanks, to support the APT research needs, and further encouraging to identify joint activities that can be undertaken to promote business linkages among APT Countries;
 - (k) Enhancing the participation and role of ASEAN in the activities and projects of ASEAN-China Centre, ASEAN-Japan Centre, and ASEAN-Korea Centre and encouraging the more active presence of these institutions in ASEAN Member

States with the view to further in promote trade and investment in the context of the APT cooperation;

- (l) Encouraging collaboration among the East Asia Business Council (EABC), the ASEAN-China Centre, the ASEAN-Japan Centre, and the ASEAN-Korea Centre to promote trade and investment in the APT context;
- (m) Encouraging cooperation between the ASEAN Business Advisory Council (ASEAN-BAC), the ASEAN+1 Business Councils, the EABC, Joint Business Councils (JBC) and the Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat to promote deeper business-to-business engagement with a view to further regional integration among the private sector; and
- (n) Promoting facilitative and conducive trade and investment environment which will expedite the process of economic recovery from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly for the micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) and vulnerable economic sectors.

2.2 Maintain financial market stability in the region through:

- (a) Strengthening the Chiang Mai Initiative Multilateralisation (CMIM) as an essential part of the regional financial safety net;
- (b) Supporting the ASEAN+3 Macroeconomic Research Office (AMRO) to realise its vision to be an independent, credible and professional international organisation acting as a trusted advisor to ASEAN+3 members in line with the performance of its core functions of regional economic surveillance, provision of support to the CMIM, and conduct of technical assistance for its members; as well as in its support for crisis response and policy recommendation; encouraging AMRO to update and implement its Strategic Direction to be aligned with the fast-changing landscape and increasing demands from ASEAN+3 members, including the build-up of a regional think-tank network to strengthen AMRO's role as a Regional Knowledge Hub;
- (c) Supporting the Asian Bond Markets Initiative (ABMI)'s contribution to the development of the local currency bond markets across the region including scaling up green and sustainable bond markets for infrastructure development in APT countries;
- (d) Promoting the issuance of government and corporate bonds denominated in local currency and strengthening the functions of the Credit Guarantee and Investment Facility (CGIF);
- (e) Supporting the Southeast Asia Disaster Risk Insurance Facility (SEADRIF), the regional platform that aims to build the region's financial resilience against climate

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shocks and disasters; and

- (f) Supporting the innovative development of ASEAN+3 financial cooperation, including in fields of infrastructure financing, Macro-structural Instruments, Disaster Risk Financing, and Fintech, as well as those under the Financial Digitalization and Transition Finance Initiative.

2.3 Promote sustainable tourism and people-to-people connectivity through:

- (a) Implementing the Memorandum of Cooperation between the Governments of the Member States of ASEAN and the Government of the Plus Three Countries on Strengthening Tourism Cooperation;
- (b) Strengthening dialogue and cooperation on sustainable, inclusive, and resilient tourism through the implementation of ASEAN Plus Three Tourism Cooperation Work Plan 2021-2025 and supporting the Final Study Report for Its Post-COVID-19 Recovery Plan for ASEAN Tourism;
- (c) Exploring the possibility of the expansion of the ASEAN Travel Corridor Arrangement Framework to the Plus Three countries to facilitate safe movement of people during COVID-19 and future public health emergencies;
- (d) Enhancing the information sharing mechanisms on tourism statistics and investment opportunities, economic data and tourism-related risk management, information and best practices regarding the policy implementation, travel advisory, mitigation and crisis communication, as well as the involvement of private sector in tourism in the region;
- (e) Strengthening tourism education, capacity building and personnel training to achieve a sustainable, inclusive, and resilient tourism;
- (f) Conduct of joint tourism marketing and promotion programmes, including with relevant private sector in the APT countries; and
- (g) Enhancing the role of the ASEAN-China Centre, ASEAN-Japan Centre and ASEAN-Korea Centre in marketing and promoting tourism offerings of the APT countries and as well as capacity building programmes, as appropriate.

2.4 Enhance cooperation in food, agriculture and forestry through:

- (a) Exchanging information, enhancing capacity building, and sharing best practices in key areas of mutual interests;
- (b) Supporting the effective implementation of the ASEAN Integrated Food Security (AIFS) Framework and the Strategic Plan of Action on Food Security in the ASEAN Region (SPA-FS), 2021-2025, the ASEAN Food Safety Policy (AFSP) and ASEAN Food Safety Regulatory Framework (AFSRF);
- (c) Ensuring food security within the region, particularly in the post-pandemic period,

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including through the full and effective implementation of the ASEAN Plus Three Emergency Rice Reserve (APTERR) Agreement and the ASEAN Food Security Information System (AFSIS) as well as through exploring the strengthening of APTERR mechanism;

- (d) Exchanging information on major food commodities in emergencies, in addition to the ongoing efforts under normal circumstances through the ASEAN Food Security Information System (AFSIS);
- (e) Enhancing cooperation to achieve innovative and sustainable agricultural production and food systems to ensure sufficient, safe, nutritious, and accessible food for all, including through support for the development and implementation of the ASEAN Guidelines on Sustainable Agriculture;
- (f) Convening conferences or workshops on food security cooperation;
- (g) Creating opportunities for ASEAN farmers, including, where applicable, young farmers, women, indigenous people, and marginalised groups and those engaged in agribusiness to learn and develop more efficient farming practices and management skills;
- (h) Implementing activities under the APT Bioenergy and Food Security Framework 2015 – 2025 to ensure sustainable, food-secure and climate- friendly bioenergy;
- (i) Deepening cooperation and collaboration to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, including capacity building, exchange of information and sharing of best practices;
- (j) Strengthening public-private partnerships (PPPs) towards enhancing productivity and quality in the food, agriculture and forestry sectors;
- (k) Bolstering continued support for the implementation of ASEAN Guidelines on Promoting the Utilisation of Digital Technologies in the Food and Agriculture Sectors aimed at enhancing resilience of food supply chain in ASEAN;
- (l) Sharing new and appropriate technologies, best practices, and resource management systems to ensure food safety and address health/disease and environmental issues, particularly in the aquaculture, sustainable forest management (SFM), livestock and horticulture sub-sectors, as well as food safety management system;
- (m) Promoting the sharing of climate-smart agriculture models;
- (n) Strengthening support for the implementation of the Strategic Plan of Action for ASEAN Cooperation in Forestry (2016-2025);
- (o) Strengthening forest law enforcement and governance, promoting trade and consumption of legally harvested wood products in a sustainable manner;

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- (p) Enhancing community livelihood through the development of agroforestry;
- (q) Promoting climate change resilient agricultural production including through relevant mechanisms such as ASEAN Plus Three Environment Ministers Meeting (APT EMM), bearing in mind their differing mandates;
- (r) Support for the cooperation of ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Strategy Framework on Food, Agriculture and Forestry (APTCS) 2016 - 2025 as well as related cooperation under AMAF Plus Three;
- (s) Encouraging discussion on the Non-tariff Measures imposed by APT's trading partners on fish and fishery products and its influence on economies and other related issues, taking into account the respective circumstances of each APT country; and
- (t) Promoting international research collaborations, taking note of aspects such as particularities which the Monsoon Asia region shares with regards to agricultural production.

2.5 Enhance energy security and cooperation through:

- (a) Support for the implementation of activities and programmes in coordination with and supportive of the strategic measures under the ASEAN Plan of Action for Energy Cooperation (APAEC) 2016-2025 Phase 2: 2021-2025 and its successor plan, COP26 and RCEP Programme;
- (b) Support for the work of the ASEAN Centre for Energy and the work programmes on ASEAN energy cooperation and integration; and support for the work programmes on energy integration of renewable energy;
- (c) Knowledge sharing, technology transfer and joint research on alternative, new, renewable, and low-carbon energy technologies;
- (d) Enhancing APT cooperation on standardisation in the field of renewable energy, including exploring efforts to harmonise relevant energy standards for sustainable development;
- (e) Efforts to create a more favourable market environment for efficient and resilient energy markets, regional energy production and trade, investments in energy infrastructure and facilities;
- (f) Efforts to enhance the gas and liquefied natural gas (LNG) market and promote a competitive, transparent and flexible market of natural gas including LNG, facilitate infrastructure investment and promote new natural gas demand for the benefit of all, securing energy security and creating growth opportunity in the region and supporting the implementation of APAEC 2016-2025 and its successor;

- (g) Promotion of energy efficiency, resiliency, conservation, e-mobility, and energy management in the residential, commercial, transportation and industrial sectors;
- (h) Promotion of greater cooperation and market transparency, including through the Joint Organisations Data Initiative (JODI), exchange of energy data, where possible, and sharing of national energy policies on a voluntary basis;
- (i) Exploring ways to supporting the national rural electrification programmes of concerned ASEAN Member States;
- (j) Capacity building on the improvement of energy safety management systems;
- (k) Conduct of collaborative activities to exchange best practices, share experiences and build capacity on the use of clean and environmentally- friendly energy technologies;
- (l) Enhance efforts to promote the integration of renewable energy, energy efficiency, resiliency and digitalization in the energy sector;
- (m) Phasing down on unabated coal power and strengthening facilitation and engagement on Clean Coal Technology (CCT) and Carbon Dioxide Capture, Utilisation and Storage (CCUS)/carbon recycling between the government and private sector, including through Plus Three countries' support for the operationalisation of the ASEAN Centre of Excellence for the CCT, in line with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Paris Agreement as well as the decisions including the Glasgow Climate Pact;
- (n) Accelerating realistic energy transition, building a mutually beneficial cooperation on a resilient and secure energy supply chain, while taking into consideration the APT countries' domestic policies in energy supply, encouraging the creation of green jobs, and improving resource efficiency;
- (o) Exploring the conduct of high level policy dialogue on energy policy development and pathways to decarbonisation;
- (p) Continuing information sharing and strengthening regional cooperation on energy security policies, measures, and best practices amongst APT towards low-carbon economy;
- (q) Capacity building and improving public awareness on nuclear energy; and
- (r) Support the role of low-carbon and renewable hydrogen and its derivatives such as ammonia in the decarbonisation of natural gas infrastructure and for zero-emission thermal power generation.

2.6 Enhance cooperation in minerals through:

- (a) Support for the continual improvement strategy to promote ASEAN as a minerals investment destination to boost domestic and international investment in all

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components of the minerals value chain, including through among others joint mining cooperation forum and exhibitions, seminars and workshops, as well as provision of up-to-date information of mining industry in ASEAN to the Plus Three countries;

- (b) Support for the development and adoption of regional principles for sustainable minerals development to progressively improve governance and economic, social and environmental outcomes such as through the conduct of technical discussions and experience sharing between the Plus Three countries and ASEAN to facilitate progressive adoption;
- (c) Promoting human, institutional and technical capacity building in minerals governance across priority aspects of ASEAN minerals development such as exploration, processing and rehabilitation, and in areas that involve innovative technologies such as digitalization or green and resource- efficient technologies;
- (d) Support for the development and implementation of new strategies and effective tools to collect and process minerals data and information to enhance the ASEAN minerals information system; and
- (e) Support for the implementation of plans and programmes in coordination with and supportive of the strategic measures under the ASEAN Minerals Cooperation Action Plan 2016-2025 (AMCAP–III) Phase 2: 2021-2025 and the APT Minerals Cooperation Work Plan 2022-2025 as well as the succeeding plans of the ASEAN minerals cooperation sector.

2.7 Promote sustainable development of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) through:

- (a) Regular Joint Consultations between the ASEAN SME Agencies and SME Agencies of the Plus Three countries to strengthen the exchange of information and best practices among the relevant authorities and institutions of SMEs, encourage market expansion, discuss investment opportunities, and identify new areas of cooperation;
- (b) Support for the implementation of the ASEAN Strategic Action Plan for SME Development (2016-2025), including sharing of best practices, experiences, on the development of MSMEs as well as convening of capacity building programmes, seminars, workshops, and symposiums;
- (c) Policy consultations and exchange of expertise between the concerned authorities, including relevant stakeholders on MSMEs and MSMEs cooperation, and assisting ASEAN Member States in the development of enabling ecosystem for start-ups;

- (d) Cooperation in traditional areas, including trade, agriculture and tourism, and relevant new areas conducive to economic growth such as environment, energy, Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR), digital economy, circular economy framework, financial technology, human resource development, education, science and technology;
- (e) Support for future initiatives aimed at preparing MSMEs for the advent of the 4IR;
- (f) Explore the proposal for an APT SMEs service alliance in consultation with relevant sectoral bodies;
- (g) Enhancing MSMEs' competitiveness through facilitating better access to financing and markets, digital infrastructure and use of technologies as well as other relevant means of support;
- (h) Work towards building MSMEs' capacity for sustainable development and inclusive approaches: promote financial literacy in MSMEs, provide capacity-building programmes to help MSMEs digitalize their business in the context of Industry 4.0, provide digital support to MSMEs to strengthen their capacity through technology and knowledge transfer mechanisms from multinational and high-tech companies on mutual agreement and, develop digital capabilities among MSMEs;
- (i) Promoting capacity in pursuing specialisation and innovation in MSMEs to facilitate sustainable development, embrace low and zero-carbon energy technologies and environmentally friendly business practices; and
- (j) Recognising the importance of providing greater access to MSMEs to regional/global value chains through deepening cooperation between MSMEs and large enterprise/multinational corporations on productivity, quality and standard; improving MSMEs' access to markets and global value chains by promoting and facilitating partnerships among businesses; strengthening the competitiveness of economies in the regional market by increasing investment in the creation and application of digital technologies, especially among MSMEs.

2.8 Strengthen cooperation in science, technology, and innovation (STI) through:

- (a) Exploring cooperation in human resource development as well as development of technical and vocational skills and networking on STI, and promotion of public-private partnership;
- (b) Fostering an open, equitable and environment for the development of STI, including by effectively protecting Intellectual Property Rights (IPR);
- (c) Exploring joint capacity building activities, exchange of information, and sharing of best practices in areas of mutual interest such as STI policies, technology

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transfer, commercialisation, products and scientific standards, technical regulations, productivity, investment and intellectual property rights (IPR) management;

- (d) Promotion of research and technology development in areas with potential for commercial applications such as robotics and automation, next-generation automobile, technology, and novel food, biotechnology, food technology, new materials, microelectronics and information technology, marine resources, new and renewable energy, climate change, life science, medical devices and technology, and space technology;
- (e) Cooperation in meteorology addressing climate information and prediction services, weather observations and climate change; and
- (f) Promotion and/or participation in relevant STI events, for example, the APT Centre for the Gifted in Science (ACGS), the APT Young Scientists Collaborative Innovation Forum and innovation youth camps and awards.

2.9 Promote development of the digital economy through:

- (a) Exploring cooperation and partnership activities, particularly in the areas of bridging the digital divide, further developing digital infrastructure, facilitating the growth of e-commerce and digital transactions, improving business environment to one that is secure, resilient, open, fair and inclusive, and investment in digital connectivity;
- (b) Supporting the implementation of the Consolidated Strategy on the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) for ASEAN, the ASEAN Digital Integration Framework Action Plan (2019-2025), ASEAN Digital Masterplan 2025 (ADM2025), the Work Plan on the implementation of ASEAN Agreement on Electronic Commerce (2021-2025), and Bandar Seri Begawan Roadmap (BSBR) for the negotiations on the ASEAN Digital Economy Framework Agreement (DEFA) by 2025;
- (c) Enhancing the capacity of ASEAN Plus Three countries through an exchange of information, capacity building, sharing of best practices, seminars, workshops, and dialogue in key areas of mutual interests in order to strengthen cybersecurity cooperation, online consumer protection and facilitation of cross-border data flow;
- (d) Recognising the importance of sustainable, inclusive, and resilient growth in trade and digital economy by leveraging digital technologies, and innovation as an effective way to respond to COVID-19 and its socio-economic impacts;
- (e) Enhancing the digital economy in promoting inclusive economic growth, fostering digital transformation, bridging the digital divide, enhancing digital human resource development skills, supporting global trade and business, and promoting

- regional collective efforts towards the post- pandemic economic recovery;
- (f) Promoting best practices in regulations to effectively embrace the digital economy and harness technological transformation;
 - (g) Addressing barriers to digital transformation, including narrowing digital divide in areas such as digital skills, financial skills, access to market, innovative entrepreneurship/capacity of MSMEs, logistics, infrastructure connectivity;
 - (h) Promoting e-governance with supports on institutional capacity building and on exploring well-fit mechanisms to adopt digitalization in civil service, and combating cybercrime and enhancing cybersecurity;
 - (i) Supporting collaboration between public and private sectors in technologies and innovations to provide enterprises with digital services and solutions on business operations;
 - (j) Promoting digital financial services and payment connectivity and support APT participating countries on financial literacy and Financial Technology (FinTech), including by leveraging the work of the Working Group on Enhancing Policy Coordination for Technological Advancement under the ASEAN+3 Finance Process; and
 - (k) Encouraging participation of MSMEs in the digital economy including through promoting of digital upskilling and market access for MSMEs.

III. SOCIO-CULTURAL COOPERATION

3.1 Protect and conserve the environment and promote the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and natural resources through:

- (a) Closer cooperation in the following areas:
 - (i) Support ASEAN efforts in the prevention and reduction of environmental pollution, particularly marine and coastal pollution, transboundary movement of hazardous wastes and transboundary haze pollution through implementation of ASEAN agreements and decisions;
 - (ii) Support APT environment cooperation mechanisms such as the ASEAN Plus Three Senior Officials Meeting on Environment (APT SOME) and ASEAN Plus Three Environment Ministers Meeting (APT EMM);
 - (iii) Support ASEAN Plus Three Marine Plastic Debris Cooperative Action Initiative, particularly activities of the Regional Knowledge Centre for Marine Plastic Debris (RKC-MPD) of the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) to address marine plastic issues in complementarity with the ASEAN Regional Action Plan for Combating Marine Debris (2021 –

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- 2025);
- (iv) Conservation and sustainable management of biological diversity and natural resources, and mainstreaming biodiversity in relevant sectors and cross-sectoral issues, in line with the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, including through support for the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity;
 - (v) Application of advanced and environment-friendly technologies and best practice;
 - (vi) Ensuring sufficient and sustainable water resource management, including integrated water resources and groundwater management to sustain food security and clean water access, as well as to prevent water-related hazards;
 - (vii) Sustainable management of coastal and marine environment, especially to tackle marine plastic debris originating from land-based activities, urban resilience, as well as surveillance against illegal desludging and disposal of tanker sludge at sea;
 - (viii) Participatory and integrated approaches in urban planning and management for sustainable urbanisation towards a clean and green ASEAN, building a future of life in harmony with nature;
 - (ix) Public awareness and Education for Sustainable Development including environmental education and Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP);
 - (x) Implementation of multilateral environmental agreements, in particular climate change, biodiversity, chemical and chemical waste-related conventions; and
 - (xi) Economic empowerment of communities in coastal areas, including through, but not limited to: sustainable aquaculture and fishing practices as well as coastal tourism and heritage conservation;
- (b) Capacity building through:
- (i) exchanges of information, best practices and experiences between and among government authorities, institutions and experts;
 - (ii) provision of training courses and scholarships and dissemination of information through seminars, workshops and conferences;
 - (iii) conducting joint research and development and networking among research/academic institutions; and
 - (iv) exploring possible technology transfers;

- (c) Promotion of 5Rs (Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Repurpose and Recycle) and environmentally sound management of waste;
- (d) Promotion of sustainable development to reduce negative impacts of development on the environment;
- (e) Promotion of the development of circular economy action plans, and biodiversity strategies to protect and restore biodiversity; and
- (f) Support for the implementation of ASEAN Strategic Plan on Environment 2018-2025.

3.2 Address the impact of climate change through:

- (a) Closer cooperation among APT countries and in multilateral forums on mitigation and adaptation to climate change, as well as development, transfer and diffusion of technologies to raise ASEAN Member States' capacity to respond to climate change and fulfil their international commitments, including the implementation of the Paris Agreement and achieving a low-carbon future, in particular their respective net zero carbon emissions targets;
- (b) Promotion of sharing of experiences, including community-based mitigation and adaptation, in addressing socio-economic impacts of climate change and extreme weather and slow onset events, particularly on vulnerable groups;
- (c) Promoting cooperation related to adaptation and mitigation under the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement, particularly on implementing Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) of the APT countries and reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+);
- (d) Closer cooperation among APT countries to promote greater public awareness on climate change;
- (e) Promoting greater protection of the environment, addressing the challenge of climate change, and sustainable management of natural resources, including soil, water and forest resources;
- (f) Promoting APT cooperation, policy consultation and capacity building to support ASEAN Member States on the research and participation in carbon markets under article 6 of the Paris Agreement; and
- (g) Support the promotion of nature-based solutions, and facilitate collaborative scientific research to enhance the contribution of biodiversity and ecosystems to climate change mitigation and adaptation.

3.3 Promote Climate Change resilient agricultural production through:

- (a) Working toward the mobilisation of resources and implementation of actions mentioned in the Updated NDC for 2030 goals, which includes development

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of NDC tracking system to monitor the implementation progress; identification of supports needed for implementation; and ensure that climate change is well integrated and mainstreamed in those actions through the development of relevant climate indicators for each action;

- (b) Bolstering continued support for the integration and mainstreaming of climate resilient agricultural production into agricultural sector strategic development plan and other national and sub-national agricultural development plans;
- (c) Facilitating resources mobilization to support the piloting and scaling-up of research and innovation of climate resilient agricultural production through innovation grants from available funding mechanisms, such as the APT Cooperation Fund;
- (d) Promoting capacity building and institutional strengthening for Green House Gas (GHG) mitigation and adaptation in the agricultural sector, including approaches that strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity of small-scale farmers and rural communities to respond to climate changes; and
- (e) Promoting the development of climate-friendly agriculture.

3.4 Forge closer cooperation in poverty alleviation for sustainable development through:

- (a) Supporting and, where relevant, assessing the progress of the implementation of the Framework Action Plan on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication 2016-2025;
- (b) Building knowledge, skills and capacities on the thematic areas of rural economic growth, social protection and social safety nets, development of infrastructure and human resources in rural and peri-urban areas; resilience of the poor and vulnerable groups to economic and environmental risks, public-private-people partnerships;
- (c) Strengthening public-private-people partnerships through capacity building and technical exchange programme for village and/or community leaders from APT Countries; and
- (d) Advancing cooperation in promoting people-oriented and people-centred sustainable, inclusive and innovative development, based on the human security approach, as well as in strengthening cooperation with all stakeholders, including the private sector, to achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

3.5 Strengthen social protection and development through:

- (a) Recognising the principles as enshrined in the ASEAN Declaration on

Strengthening Social Protection, which, among others, stipulate that everyone, especially those who are poor, at risk, persons with disabilities, older people, out-of-school youth, children, migrant workers, and other vulnerable groups, are entitled to have equitable access to social protection, that is a basic human right, and based on a rights-based/ needs-based, life-cycle approach and covering essential services as needed;

- (b) Fostering concrete actions towards improved quality, coverage, and sustainability of social protection in ASEAN Member States, which include but not limited to building and strengthening the networking and partnerships with Dialogue Partners and other stakeholders in providing adequate resources and effectively implementing the commitments reflected in the ASEAN Declaration on Strengthening Social Protection;
- (c) Development of human and economic potential of vulnerable groups through capacity and capability development;
- (d) Strengthening the resilience of families, and caregivers in societies, and enhancing the participation and social responsibility of stakeholders;
- (e) Promotion of the use of ICTs for women, children, the elderly and persons with disabilities, and other vulnerable groups, to enhance building social and economic community;
- (f) Promoting and strengthening demographic policy by sharing information, experience, best practices, conducting joint research and supporting capacity development to respond to the demographic trends, especially low birth rate, ageing population, and migration; and
- (g) Enhancing visibility and solidarity of the social work profession and social workers in the ASEAN Plus Three countries through implementation of existing ASEAN commitments, documents, and sectoral work plans, which include but not limited to, the ASEAN Training Centre for Social Work and Social Welfare (ATCSW), Ha Noi Declaration on Strengthening Social Work for Cohesive and Responsive ASEAN Community and its Road Map, SOMSWD Work Plan 2021-2025 and ASWC Work Plan 2021-2025.

3.6 Promote Active Ageing through:

- (a) Promotion of healthy, active, and productive ageing in an enabling and supportive environment, towards implementing the Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Ageing: Empowering Older Persons in ASEAN and its Regional Plan of Action, and the ASEAN Plus Three Statement on Active Ageing;
- (b) Sharing information and experiences of the ageing in APT and exploring how APT

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can conduct regional cooperation involving non-governmental organisations and the private sector;

- (c) Strengthening the capacities of governments, corporate bodies, civil society organisations, communities and stakeholders in delivering adequate care for older persons, including the development of human capital and expertise;
- (d) Promoting the role of and supporting capacity development for the ASEAN Centre for Active Ageing and Innovation (ACAI);
- (e) Development of older people's associations and other forms of networking;
- (f) Promotion of age-friendly communities and cities through sustainable and accessible infrastructures;
- (g) Cooperation in sharing of expertise on designing senior-friendly environment;
- (h) Support for ASEAN's effort in developing an ASEAN regional action plan on ageing to develop capacities of ASEAN Member States in effectively addressing issues arising from ageing society; and
- (i) Promotion of collaboration in research and development on elderly health issues identified as priorities by APT countries.

3.7 Promote women empowerment and gender equality through:

- (a) Enhancement of regional cooperation to improve the protection and empowerment of women, especially those in vulnerable situations including the elderly, persons with disabilities, women living with HIV/AIDS, internally displaced persons, and women at risk or victims of gender-based violence;
- (b) Promotion of the leadership of women in the political, cultural and economic spheres and the public and private sectors;
- (c) Enhancement of the economic empowerment of women, women entrepreneurs, including young women and especially those in the micro- small- and medium-enterprises as well as in the informal sector;
- (d) Promotion of gender mainstreaming in primary, secondary and tertiary levels in public schools, achieving women's equal access to quality education, decent work, healthcare services, and raising understanding and awareness of media practitioners on gender equality;
- (e) Mainstreaming of gender analysis and women's perspectives in national and regional initiatives, including those on ensuring decent work, social protection, and resilience building;
- (f) Support for the implementation of the Regional Plan of Action on the Elimination of Violence Against Women (RPA-EVAW) Regional Plan of Action on the Elimination of Violence Against Children (RPA-VAC), Regional Plan of Action for

the Protection of Children from All Forms of Online Exploitation and Abuse in ASEAN (ASEAN RPA on COEA), and Regional Plan of Action on Implementing the ASEAN Declaration on the Rights of Children in the Context of Migration (ASEAN RPA on CCM), as well as initiatives to promote and protect the rights of women, persons with disabilities and children in the ACWC Work Plan;

- (g) Capacity building for women law enforcers in protecting children from all forms of online exploitation and abuse, particularly the proliferation of child sexual abuse materials (CSAM) or any other form of online child exploitation;
- (h) Promoting gender mainstreaming throughout the innovation cycle and ensure that women benefit equally from innovation;
- (i) Enhancing women's digital inclusion, strengthening women's digital skills and capabilities through education and training, and supporting women's full participation in the digital economy;
- (j) Strengthening engagement and expanding opportunities for women in STI, including in research and development; and
- (k) Support for the implementation of ASEAN declarations, statements, and regional plan of actions clustered under key thematic areas that contribute to promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women.

3.8 Build capacity of civil service through:

- (a) Exchange of experiences and best practices on key areas within public administration and reform, enhancement of human resource capabilities and productivity in the public sector, promotion of effective and efficient civil service, public accountability, good governance and competency in digital administration;
- (b) Sharing expertise and know-how in civil service matters and capacity development for civil servants in both national and local levels among APT countries on promotion of civil service modernisation and digitalization, including e-governance, and research and innovation related to human resource management in the civil service; and
- (c) Support for the efficient and effective implementation of the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation on Civil Service Matters (ACCSM+3) Work Plan 2021- 2025.

3.9 Promote cooperation on labour and migrant workers through:

- (a) Support for the implementation of the ASEAN Labour Ministers' Work Programme and Work Plans of SLOM-WG, ASEAN-OSHNET and ACMW for 2021-2025 and the SLOM+3 Work Plan 2021-2025;
- (b) Support efforts to protect and promote labour rights, including the rights of migrant workers, promote occupational safety and health, promote progressive

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labour practices taking into account relevant international instruments and each country's national circumstances, and raise awareness about labour to community and local authority, as appropriate;

- (c) Closer cooperation in raising awareness and capacity building for government officials, community and school students, and other stakeholders, where appropriate in the thematic areas of gender mainstreaming of labour sector, labour dimension of sustainable development, functional social dialogue, and emerging labour trends;
- (d) Closer cooperation to improve workforce competitiveness, productivity, and productive employment by, among others, supporting the implementation of the Roadmap of ASEAN Declaration on Human Resources Development for the Changing World of Work and ASEAN Declaration on Promoting Competitiveness, Resilience and Agility of Workers for the Future of Work and strengthening digital awareness among stakeholders;
- (e) Promotion of harmonious, safe and progressive workplace with adequate social protection with special attention on vulnerable groups; and
- (f) Encourage discussion on regular pathways for labour migration, the mobility of labour and its influence on economies and other related issues, taking into account the respective circumstances of each country. Meanwhile, enforce the existing laws as well as exploring the development of new regulation on migration and labour, as necessary.

3.10 Enhance cultural exchange and cooperation through:

- (a) Capacity building and knowledge-sharing in culture, traditional, historical and contemporary art and heritage conservation and preservation activities;
- (b) Rendering technical assistance and support for the protection, preservation, and restoration of cultural and historical heritage;
- (c) Human resource development and training in the cultural field, including, but not limited to, exchange of experiences on the hosting of large-scale cultural activities, and trainings to address emerging trends within the cultural and creative industries;
- (d) Promotion of cultural understanding and greater awareness of each other's culture, through research, festivals, exhibitions, dialogues, workshops and other activities and events;
- (e) Promotion of interaction, networking, dialogue and exchange of visits among culture and arts policymakers, among cultural institutions, art galleries, museums, archives and libraries, as well as artists, experts, practitioners in theatre, music,

- acrobatics, dance, folk art, film, and in other cultural and creative fields;
- (f) Collaboration among cultural, creative and design industries including joint venture and co-production;
 - (g) City level dialogue and collaboration between the Culture City of East Asia and the ASEAN City of Culture, where appropriate; and
 - (h) Supporting the implementation of ASEAN Plus Three work plan on Cooperation in Culture and the Arts 2022-2025.

3.11 Enhance cooperation in youth exchanges and sports through:

- (a) Supporting the implementation of APT Work Plan on Youth 2021-2025 with priorities on:
 - i Research and policy dialogue on the impact of the fourth industrial revolution and COVID-19 pandemic/other emergencies on youth, including youth with disabilities, with a view to exchanging lessons learned and best practices;
 - ii Youth exchange programmes, cultural/educational fora and competitions for deeper mutual understanding and forging a sense of commonality;
 - iii Promotion of the spirit of youth volunteerism to inculcate a stronger ASEAN Plus Three community spirit among ASEAN Plus Three youths by involving them in community development projects;
 - iv Engagement of youth in mutually beneficial programmes to support youth's health and wellbeing, including mental health;
 - v Skills development training and leadership programme for youth in the context of the fourth industrial revolution;
 - vi Promotion of the culture of peace, moderation, and tolerance amongst ASEAN Plus Three youths through intercultural and interreligious dialogues; and
 - vii Supporting youth participation in digitalization, and youth entrepreneurship to encourage conservation and promotion of local culture and identity;
- (b) Promotion of ASEAN and East Asian traditional games and sports to foster greater understanding of the heritage of such sports, and to enhance closer people-to-people exchanges through sports; and
- (c) Engagement of youth, including youth with disabilities, in mutually beneficial sports exchange programmes.

3.12 Enhance capacity in information and media through:

- (a) Cooperation in the area of journalism, including press, radio, and television and social media;
- (b) News exchange and information and knowledge/media persons exchange

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programmes;

- (c) Consultations, dialogues and forums on media and broadcasting issues and best practices in areas such as, but not limited to, media and digital literacy, digital broadcasting technology, digital inclusivity and accessibility, and media policies;
- (d) Personnel training for the technicians and professionals in the TV, talk shows, radio, and broadcasting sectors, and print and new media journalists; and
- (e) Cooperation in content generation, including digital content, through co-production.

3.13 Strengthen education systems and improve access to education through:

- (a) Support the implementation of ASEAN Plus Three Plan of Action on Education 2018-2025 with the following key priorities/strategies:
 - i Promoting inclusive education through inclusive schools and other education delivery modalities such as alternative learning system, Special Education, and Distance Education;
 - ii Improving quality of teacher, school leaders and administrators through relevant capacity building programmes;
 - iii Developing digital learning strategy for students and teachers through the use of technology;
 - iv Boosting student mobility to improve quality of education, and promote mutual understanding and awareness among APT countries;
 - v Serving socio-economic community needs through university-industry-community cooperation;
 - vi Promoting access to education through the use of ICT;
 - vii Strengthening Inter-Institutional Cooperation to promote networking and research development among institutions and authorities;
 - viii Strengthening TVET Quality Assurance and Recognition;
 - ix Promoting the image of TVET; and
 - x Promoting capacity building for teacher, faculty members, students, educational personnel;
- (b) Cooperation in promoting universal basic education, including improving quality of primary and secondary education and accelerating learning opportunities for out-of-school children and youth;
- (c) Cooperation in promoting peace education;
- (d) Cooperation in research and development among APT higher education institutions and research agencies;
- (e) Encouraging credit transfers and mutual recognition of qualification on voluntary

basis between universities in APT countries by sustaining the existing APT Working Group on Mobility of Higher Education, ASEAN Working Group on Higher Education Mobility 2025 and Ensuring Quality Assurance of Higher Education;

- (f) Encouraging greater promotion of student exchanges and mobility and quality assurance of higher education through the ongoing APT Working Group on Mobility of Higher Education, ASEAN Working Group on Higher Education Mobility 2025 (AWGHEM) and Ensuring Quality Assurance of Higher Education;
- (g) Promotion of Education for Sustainable Development through various approaches such as strengthening cross-sectoral collaboration, establishing scholars' networks, promoting multi-disciplinary research, ways such as exchange of teachers, educators and researchers and sharing of good practices; and
- (h) Strengthening cooperation in diplomatic education and training through Annual Meeting of Deans and Directors of diplomatic training institutions of APT countries.

3.14 Strengthen cooperation in public health through:

- (a) Enhancing cooperation in combating the COVID-19 pandemic in the region and mitigating its socio-economic impacts, and supporting ASEAN's initiatives in addressing COVID-19 which includes, among others, the establishment of the ASEAN Centre for Public Health Emergencies and Emerging Diseases (ACPHEED), the COVID-19 ASEAN Response Fund, the ASEAN Regional Reserve of Medical Supplies for Public Health Emergencies (RRMS), the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework (ACRF) and its Implementation Plan, and the ASEAN Strategic Framework for Public Health Emergencies, encouraging further consultation on the APT Reserve of essential Medical Supplies (APT RMS) for public health emergencies;
- (b) Capacity building, technical assistance and networking among APT countries in the areas as agreed by the APT Health Ministers' Meeting and as stated in the relevant APT Joint Statements;
- (c) Capacity building in public health emergency management and response through whole-of-government approach and whole-of-society approach;
- (d) Promotion of collaborative research and development and human resources development in the areas related to public health;
- (e) Cooperation at the global and regional levels to prevent, control and reduce the impact of communicable and emerging infectious diseases including pandemics;
- (f) Collaboration, and exchange of experiences on Universal Health Coverage to

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- further strengthen national health systems, and promote regional cooperation and global health architecture;
- (g) Improving ASEAN's emergency preparedness and response to pandemics and other emerging health threats;
 - (h) Conduct of activities to improve access to safe, quality, affordable and effective medicines, vaccines, therapeutics, and diagnostic tools to promote the rational use of medicines including containing anti-microbial drug resistance; enhancing information exchange on price of medicines, where possible;
 - (i) Supporting ASEAN in attaining vaccine security and self-reliance in line with the ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on ASEAN Vaccine Security and Self-Reliance (AVSSR);
 - (j) Collaboration in the area of traditional and complementary medicines;
 - (k) The implementation of the APT Leaders' Statement on Cooperation against Antimicrobial Resistance;
 - (l) The implementation of the APT Leaders' Statement on Cooperation on Mental Health Amongst Adolescents and Young Children, including through strengthening efforts on promoting awareness on mental health and conducting further collaborative initiatives that aim to ensure basic mental health care services and psychosocial support that are affordable and accessible as a component of Universal Health Coverage;
 - (m) Joint efforts in advocating, facilitating, and implementing relevant social and economic interventions in addressing the risk factors of non-communicable diseases including tobacco use, harmful use of alcohol and unhealthy diet, as well as sedentary lifestyle; and
 - (n) Enhancing cooperation to prevent and respond to pandemics through the promotion of biodiversity mainstreaming and biodiversity literacy, and to encourage behaviours that address the root causes of zoonoses and emerging diseases.

3.15 Promote cooperation in disaster management and emergency response through:

- (a) Support for the Implementation of the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) and its Work Programme;
- (b) Support for the realisation of the ASEAN Vision 2025 on Disaster Management, ASEAN Declaration on One ASEAN, One Response: ASEAN Responding to Disaster as One in the Region and outside the Region and implementation of ASEAN Joint Disaster Response Plan and ICT Roadmap on Disaster Management for 2025 and Beyond;

- (c) Enhance exchange of knowledge, best practices, and capacity-building on different aspects of disaster resilience, including early warning systems;
- (d) Promoting science and technology cooperation amongst APT countries in disaster risk management including through a knowledge sharing platform;
- (e) Enhancing cooperation with international and regional organisations and UN agencies, such as UNDRR in disaster risk reduction to facilitate further sharing of experience and best practices and improve regional disaster management capacity; and
- (f) Utilising the expertise of the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Centre) in preparing for and responding to natural disasters and emergencies.

IV. CONNECTIVITY COOPERATION

- 4.1 Promote regional connectivity in East Asia, develop links and create synergies between the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) 2025 and other key connectivity initiatives promoted by China, Japan, and the ROK as outlined in the ASEAN Plus Three Statement on Connecting the Connectivities Initiative;
- 4.2 Strengthen cooperation to implement the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity 2025 and its successor, including through co-creating connectivity projects and capacity building programmes;
- 4.3 Enhance APT cooperation to foster the development of sustainable infrastructure, including through support of relevant ASEAN-led initiatives, such as MPAC 2025;
- 4.4 Enhance cooperation on smart and sustainable cities development in the region through ASEAN Smart Cities Network (ASCN) and ASEAN Sustainable Urbanisation Strategy (ASUS); and
- 4.5 Promote digital connectivity with a view to expanding digital infrastructure and communications.

V. SUPPORT FOR INITIATIVE FOR ASEAN INTEGRATION

- 5.1 Provide support for ASEAN to narrow the development gap, accelerate regional integration among its member states through the implementation of the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) Work Plan IV (2021-2025); and
- 5.2 Support ASEAN's efforts to promote sustainable, inclusive, and equitable development across the ASEAN Community, including through aligning sub- regional growth with the comprehensive development of ASEAN, while recognising the relevance of subregional development to ASEAN's regional integration and community-building process.

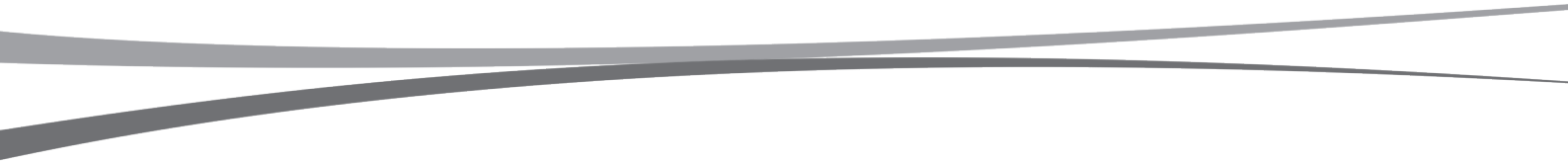
VI. TRACK 1.5 AND TRACK 2 COOPERATION

- 6.1 Engage various stakeholders to reflect their views in the process of East Asia community building with ASEAN as the driving force; and
- 6.2 Strengthen the East Asia Forum (EAF) and the Network of East Asian Think Tanks (NEAT), and consider their recommendations as supplementary sources of inputs for policy formulation that is based on research and inter-sectoral consultations.

VII. INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT AND FOLLOW-UP MECHANISM

- 7.1 Continue strengthening the APT Cooperation Fund (APTCF);
- 7.2 The ASEAN Secretariat will develop a schedule and time frame for implementation of this Work Plan as means to inform and monitor activities implemented to address measures under this Work Plan;
- 7.3 Develop and implement projects in line with ASEAN's project management framework;
- 7.4 Review the Work Plan through the existing mechanisms, with the ASEAN CPR Plus Three Meeting as the monitoring mechanism;
- 7.5 The ASEAN Coordinator for APT cooperation will prepare concise progress report on the implementation of the Work Plan for submission to the annual APT Summit for notation; and
- 7.6 Encourage ASEAN-China Centre, ASEAN-Japan Centre, and ASEAN-Korea Centre to exchange ideas, experiences and explore possible joint projects to promote trade, investment, tourism, cultural exchanges, and people-to-people contact between ASEAN and the Plus Three countries.

III. Summit-Level Chairman's Statements



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Press Statement by the Chairman of the Seventh ASEAN Summit and the Fifth ASEAN + 3 Summit

Bandar Seri Begawan, November 5 2001

1. ASEAN leaders held a very productive meeting this morning following a working dinner last night. It was our seventh summit since 1976 and the first working summit since we decided in Singapore last year to devote more time to important matters of substance and reduce ceremonial proceedings. We also held a very good meeting with leaders from China, Japan and Korea this afternoon. This was our fifth "ASEAN + 3" summit since 1997.

Addressing immediate concerns

2. In the current climate of intense global uncertainty, Southeast Asia faces its biggest, if not the biggest, challenge since ASEAN was founded in 1967. The twofold challenge of addressing a severe world economic slowdown while contributing to international efforts to combat terrorism is without precedent. Moreover, this new challenge has emerged as many of us were just starting to recover from the financial shocks of 1997 and 1998.
3. In the shorter term, stimulating our domestic economies is an urgent priority to cushion the impact of reduced external demand. Appropriate fiscal and monetary policies are crucial. At the same time, traditional policy responses must be accompanied by a renewed commitment to structural reforms that ASEAN members have been pursuing in response to the Asian financial crisis. In some areas, these reforms can be deepened if we take a more cooperative and integrated approach.
4. Reflecting our deep concern over the formidable challenge to regional and international peace and stability as well as economic development, we issued the 2001 ASEAN Declaration on Joint Action to Counter Terrorism. To advance ASEAN's efforts to fight terrorism, we instructed ministers to take various practical measures. ASEAN is committed to countering, preventing and suppressing all terrorist acts in accordance

with the Charter of the United Nations, especially taking into account all relevant UN resolutions.

5. We raised many ideas on how to address the issue. These include working on a regional operational convention or agreement to combat terrorism, holding a multilateral seminar on emergency response to terrorist threats, looking into a bilateral legal assistance agreement to enhance cooperation in combating terrorist acts and deliberating on various aspects of the issue in a comprehensive manner including its definition and root causes. Leaders instructed the Special ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime which will meet next April, and officials, to study these proposals. In reiterating their condemnation of the terrorist attacks, leaders expressed their concern for the welfare of innocent people as a result of the military action on Afghanistan and considered extending humanitarian assistance.
6. In responding to the strategic challenges, we emphasized the importance of strengthening security, solidarity and cooperation to promote ASEAN's competitiveness and regional influence. The ASEAN Regional Forum should continue to be strengthened, especially in view of the changing strategic situation.
7. While addressing these immediate concerns, we agreed on the need to identify new priorities and respond decisively to longer term challenges facing Southeast Asia. We should be able to say that our people are in control of regional affairs and can look to the future with confidence.

Identifying new priorities

8. We endorsed the Mid-Term Review of the Hanoi Plan of Action. The six-year plan we adopted in 1998 remains an important roadmap for our long-term vision for ASEAN. Adjustments reflect recent developments and the priority needs of members. New priorities include the integration initiative we launched in Singapore last year. Other priorities include information and communications technology along with human capacity building. We also endorsed a Report Card on last year's summit. This new document will become a permanent checklist to assess progress in our work.
9. We agreed to review the ASEAN secretariat's terms of reference to strengthen its function and role. We recognized the presence of the secretary general in summit meetings. In order to promote ASEAN+3 cooperation further, a proposal was made to establish an ASEAN+3 secretariat. We also considered the idea of convening 10+1 summits with our dialogue partners, in particular India.

Responding to long-term challenges

10. ASEAN must improve its credibility as a regional organization and respond decisively to challenges. Among recent worrying developments are a decline in foreign investment in ASEAN countries and the erosion of our competitiveness resulting from the emergence of new markets. These concerns have been compounded by the global economic downturn and further uncertainty arising from the terrorist attacks in the United States in September. Another risk is a widening of the development gap in ASEAN which could undermine regional solidarity.

Accelerating regional integration

11. These challenges offer a unique opportunity for ASEAN to work even closer together. We are determined to strengthen our competitiveness and accelerate regional integration. In this regard, we welcomed a decision by our economic ministers in Hanoi in September to commission an ASEAN Competitiveness Study. The study will be undertaken by a well-known international consulting firm and we look forward to reviewing their assessment next year.
12. We also discussed pushing the frontiers of our economic cooperation beyond existing commitments for free-trade and investment areas. We agreed to go beyond the ASEAN Free Trade Area and the ASEAN Investment Area by deepening market liberalization for both trade and investment. We specifically agreed to speed up negotiations on liberalising intra-ASEAN trade in services and to start negotiations on mutual recognition arrangements for professional services. We decided to encourage interested countries to form a critical mass to accelerate the liberalization of services such as transport and tourism. We also agreed on the need to work harder to harmonise and coordinate our rules and regulations.
13. Under our vision for ASEAN in 2020, we agreed on the need for a Roadmap for Integration of ASEAN (RIA) charting milestones along the way including specific steps and timetables. The competitiveness study will be an integral part of the road map. We agreed to instruct all ministers and senior officials to start work on the roadmap and submit their final proposals to our meeting in Cambodia next year.
14. To bring our business people into the mainstream of our economic activities, we encourage the private sector to convene a regular ASEAN Business Summit in conjunction with our meetings, starting in Cambodia next year. We also agreed to set up an ASEAN Business Advisory Council. We also encouraged the holding of trade fairs.

Embarking on far-reaching economic cooperation

15. In working even closer together, we agreed to embark on activities for far-reaching economic cooperation in many areas. To strengthen cooperation in industry sectors, we decided to ask our ministers to develop concrete plans in the fields of energy, tourism, agriculture and telecommunications. We considered a suggestion for an ASEAN tourism agreement. We recognized the need to take advantage of increased trade between ASEAN members to generate growth. We therefore emphasized the importance of further developing regional transport and communications infrastructure while exploring the potential for barter trade.
16. We also discussed exciting flagship projects from pan-ASEAN open skies to regional highway networks, power grids and gas pipelines. We agreed to ask our ministers to come up with more concrete plans in these fields, and report back to us next year. We reaffirmed the Singapore-Kunming rail link as a priority project, and endorsed the routes agreed to by our ministers.

Bridging the development gap

17. Bridging the development gap is crucial for regional integration and part of our confidence-building efforts to help members cope with challenges. Our priorities are developing human resources, infrastructure and information technology, especially with the private sector and our dialogue partners. In this regard, we noted the decision by our foreign ministers in Hanoi in July to initiate ASEAN projects in these areas and agreed to focus on self-help programs for human resources development.
18. We reaffirmed the importance of our sub-regional growth areas in ASEAN development and integration. We also discussed ways to revitalize these growth areas, including those centered on Brunei, Indonesia Malaysia and the Philippines as well as the Mekong River basin. We reaffirmed our support for the important role of growth triangles in the integration of ASEAN and we supported the idea of strengthening our security cooperation. This is important to restore investor confidence and improve the sub-regional business climate. We welcomed the Asian Development Bank as a regional development advisor and we agreed to encourage greater private-sector involvement in these sub-regional growth areas. We decided to ask our ministers to convene a high-level meeting to explore how these areas can make a stronger contribution to regional growth. We welcomed the participation of dialogue partners and noted that it would be useful to have the ASEAN secretariat provide technical and administrative support. We instructed our officials to report to us next year on progress in this area. We also welcomed the convening of summit of the Greater Mekong Sub-region in Cambodia

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next year,

19. Other efforts to narrow the development gap include an ASEAN Integration System of Preferences for our newer members. This will allow Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Viet Nam to gain tariff-free access to the more developed ASEAN markets earlier than the agreed target date of 2010 for all members. We agreed to implement this by the beginning of January next year.
20. We agreed that other significant issues such as promoting greater community spirit within ASEAN and strengthening our institutional capacity could be examined in more detail in Cambodia next year.

Making HIV/AIDS a national and regional priority

21. In response to an initiative in Singapore last year, we convened a session on HIV/AIDS to send a strong signal that this battle is now a national and regional priority across Southeast Asia. HIV/AIDS is not just a health problem but can have devastating socio-economic consequences.
22. As a reflection of our new political will, we adopted the Seventh ASEAN Summit Declaration on HIV/AIDS to express our strongest support for national, regional and international efforts in this area. We also endorsed the second phase of an ASEAN Work Program for the period from 2001 to 2004. We thanked UNAIDS for helping us to prepare for the summit session and look forward to their continued support in implementing the program. We agreed to invite our dialogue partners and other international agencies to support the work program. We also thanked the ASEAN Task Force on AIDS and the contributions from non-government organizations including those representing people living with HIV/AIDS.
23. By acknowledging this new priority, we are determined to commit the necessary resources to deal with prevention, care, support and alleviating the impact of HIV/AIDS. ASEAN must lobby for issues of common concern such as access to cheaper drugs for the millions of people who cannot afford such treatment. At the same time, we must strengthen exchanges and adapt technical expertise while gaining experience and learning from successful strategies within the region.

Building a closer East Asian partnership

24. With our colleagues from China, Japan and Korea, we exchanged views on terrorism and strongly condemned the recent attacks in the United States. We affirmed that terrorism is an attack on humanity and that the United Nations should play a major role in combating terrorism. We also reaffirmed our commitment to enhance international

and regional cooperation against terrorism and called for the early signing and ratification of all 12 counter-terrorism conventions. We confirmed that political stability, economic well being and development in the region is a crucial foundation in our fight against international terrorism.

25. We are determined to strengthen consultation, cooperation and coordination between relevant authorities to fight terrorism. Effective counter-terrorism measures could include regular exchanges of information and intelligence as well as enhanced regional capacity building. The Northeast Asian partners supported the thrust of the ASEAN declaration, especially additional practical measures to be taken. The leaders agreed to minimize the adverse effects of the terrorist attacks on the regional economy through close cooperation among economic policy and financial authorities.
26. We considered the Report of the East Asia Vision Group and once again warmly thanked President Kim for launching the initiative in 1999. The report contains key proposals and concrete measures to broaden East Asia cooperation. Some are bold yet feasible such as establishing an East Asia Free Trade Area and liberalizing trade well ahead of APEC's goals. President Kim also highlighted proposals to set up an East Asia forum and the possibility of an East Asian summit. The study group we agreed to set up last year is now assessing the proposals. We look forward to their final report in Cambodia next year.
27. China, Japan and Korea supported our efforts to accelerate ASEAN integration, especially in the areas of human resource development, infrastructure and information technology. We welcomed the various offers by our Northeast Asian neighbours to undertake programmes of activities to promote people-to-people exchanges and human resource development including a seminar on energy security. To help narrow the digital divide between ASEAN members, our Northeast Asian partners announced plans to contribute new computers to Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Viet Nam.
28. As a follow-up to our initiative in Manila in 1999, Brunei Darussalam offered to continue support to the ASEAN + 3 Young Leaders Forum. Inaugurated in Bandar Seri Begawan in August last year, the forum brought together youth leaders, academics and government officials from 13 countries to exchange ideas on strategic and political issues in the region and promote better understanding among our people.

Press Statement by the Chairman of the Eighth ASEAN Summit, the Sixth ASEAN + 3 Summit and the ASEAN-China Summit

Phnom Penh, 4 November 2002

1. The ASEAN leaders today held the 8th ASEAN Summit in Phnom Penh followed by the 6th ASEAN + 3 Summit with China, Japan and the Republic of Korea and a separate ASEAN-China Summit. It was the first time that Cambodia had the honour and pleasure of hosting and chairing these summits.
2. The ASEAN Summit focused on issues of grave concern to all ASEAN embers including political and economic developments, particularly recent uncertainties following terrorist attacks and the ongoing debate on Iraq. In the face of these developments, we reaffirmed our commitment to strengthening solidarity and accelerating the implementation of our Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI).
3. At the ASEAN + 3 and ASEAN-China Summits, we strengthened our partnership with China, Japan and the Republic of Korea in line with our strategy to reinforce ASEAN's competitiveness through mutually-beneficial trade and investment.

Phnom Penh Agenda: Towards an ASEAN Community

4. At the opening of the ASEAN Summit, the chair outlined the Phnom Penh Agenda Towards a Community of Southeast Asian Nations. The initiative has four themes:
 - Collaboration with the Greater Mekong Subregion program to accelerate ASEAN integration;
 - ASEAN as a single tourist destination;
 - ASEAN solidarity for peace and security, especially in the fight against terrorism; and
 - Bold steps in sustainable natural resources management, including ratification of the Kyoto Protocol by all ASEAN members. Leaders considered the idea of an ASEAN Economic Community as an end goal for the Roadmap for the Integration of ASEAN and Vision 2020 which ministers could study.

5. At our working dinner last night, we adopted the Declaration on Terrorism by the 8th ASEAN Summit which condemned the recent heinous acts of terrorism. Determined to build on measures we announced last year, we resolved to intensify our efforts to prevent, counter and suppress terrorist activities in the region. At the same time, we urged the international community to support our efforts. We welcomed Thailand's decision to accede to the Agreement on Information Exchange and Establishment of Communications Procedures between Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines in May to which Cambodia acceded in July.
6. We are deeply concerned about the situation in the Middle East. With the assistance of the international community, a peaceful solution to end the worsening cycle of violence in Israel must be formulated. ASEAN leaders agreed that the situation in Iraq is a matter of grave concern for the international community. The leaders noted the potentially destabilizing effects of a war on the global economy and its impact on the region. They expressed ASEAN's support for the efforts of the United Nations to eliminate all weapons of mass destruction in Iraq and called upon the government of Iraq to fully comply with the relevant United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolutions. The leaders reaffirmed their appreciation and support for the various mechanisms to address the Iraqi situation, in particular the primary role of the UN and the UNSC in deciding on appropriate enforcement action. They requested their foreign ministers to remain seized with the matter and to meet immediately, if necessary, to assess and discuss measures to deal with the situation.
7. Resolving transnational issues such as disease and the trafficking of humans, drugs and weapons also requires international cooperation and unified action. In this regard, leaders accepted an ASEAN Work Programme adopted by the Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime in May.
8. ASEAN members such as Cambodia have achieved some success in checking the spread of HIV-AIDS. Leaders agreed to pursue the battle against malaria and tuberculosis in addition to other deadly diseases, and pledged to allocate more resources to deal with prevention and relief.

Enhancing ASEAN Competitiveness

9. Sustained socio-economic development in the face of rapid globalization is the most important challenge facing ASEAN. Our strategy to address this challenge is regional integration. ASEAN must seize and build upon opportunities for closer cooperation and mutual benefits with our partners, especially through enhanced trade and investment links and bold, unified strategies for growth.

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10. We acknowledged the continued sluggishness of the world economy. We stressed the importance of appropriate economic management and regional integration to strengthen national and regional competitiveness. As globalization intensifies, a fully integrated ASEAN will make Southeast Asia more competitive. In this regard, we stressed the importance of restoring economic confidence in ASEAN and thanked Thailand for agreeing to host a major event during the APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting in Bangkok (October 2003) to showcase ASEAN to the international community.
11. Following a presentation by McKinsey & Company, we commended an interim report of an ASEAN Competitiveness Study. The international management consultancy found that ASEAN integration efforts had significant potential to boost competitiveness. It supported initiatives underway and urged ASEAN to take concrete steps such as designating electronics and consumer goods as initial sectors for accelerated integration. Leaders look forward to McKinsey's final recommendations early next year. In the meantime, we tasked our economic ministers to seriously consider fast-track priority sectors and stronger ASEAN mechanism to monitor implementation. The leaders also agreed to strengthen the ASEAN Secretariat.

Realizing ASEAN Integration

12. We agreed to intensify actions to ensure the integration of the broader Southeast Asian market. Faster integration will require actions on tariffs in schemes such as the ASEAN Integration System of Preferences allowing Cambodia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar and Viet Nam to gain tariff-free access to the more developed ASEAN markets by 2003, seven years ahead of the agreed target of 2010.
13. We stressed the importance of harmonized products and streamlining customs procedures. The liberalization of intra-ASEAN trade in services requires strengthening transport links, interconnecting telecommunications, increasing the use of information and communications technology and liberalizing investment within ASEAN. We welcomed Malaysia's offer to Cambodia to help build the missing link in the Singapore-Kunming Rail Link (SKRL).
14. ASEAN Secretary-General H.E. Rodolfo C. Severino, Jr. briefed leaders on specific efforts to realize the goal of an integrated ASEAN by 2020. These include efforts to address the emergence of a "two-tier ASEAN" by narrowing the development gap between the newer and older members. We approved an IAI Work Plan along with 51 projects in the areas of infrastructure, human resource development, information and communications technology and regional economic integration.
15. We reaffirmed the strategic value of developing the Greater Mekong Subregion and

thanked the Asian Development Bank for supporting the GMS programme as well as the inaugural GMS Summit in Phnom Penh on November 3. We also encouraged accelerated implementation of the Brunei-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East Asia Growth Area Initiative, known as BIMP-EAGA.

16. We discussed the significance of our inaugural summit with India on November 5 and acknowledged that the meeting will provide a unique opportunity to strengthen the relationship. We also discussed the idea of convening a summit with Australia, and agreed to study the issue further over the coming year.
17. To ensure the continued smooth running of the ASEAN Secretariat, we endorsed the appointment of H.E. Ong Keng Yong of Singapore as the incoming Secretary-General for 2003-2007. Leaders expressed their deep appreciation for the outstanding performance of Secretary-General Severino, whose five-year term expires at the end of this year. We also welcomed Indonesia's offer to host the Ninth ASEAN Summit meetings in Bali on October 7 & 8 next year.

ASEAN as a Single Tourism Destination

18. We signed the ASEAN Tourism Agreement reflecting the extremely high priority placed on tourism development. The agreement will help create favourable industry conditions aimed at achieving ASEAN's vision for a free flow of tourism services before 2020. We pledged to work hard to promote the ASEAN region as a single tourism destination through actions such as facilitating intra-ASEAN travel, liberalizing passenger transport, attracting investment and ensuring the protection of ASEAN's cultural and natural heritage.
19. We expressed deep concern regarding unnecessarily negative travel advisories which have adversely affected tourism in the region. We call on all nations to refrain from issuing such advisories unless supported by reliable intelligence and analysis.

Advancing East Asia Cooperation

20. We reaffirmed our enhanced partnership with China, Japan and the Republic of Korea and particularly welcomed their support for the IAI Work Plan and projects aimed at accelerating the integration of ASEAN's newer members. The ASEAN + 3 process has matured and expanded to include regional political and security issues such as the fight against terrorism and transnational crime. We welcomed the proposal of China to convene a ministerial meeting on transnational crime in the near future. The leaders expressed willingness to explore the phased evolution of the ASEAN + 3 summit into an East Asian summit. In addition to supporting ASEAN initiatives, the three countries

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have been helping integration through their own efforts, notably Japan's Initiative for Development in East Asia (IDEA), the East Asia Vision Group and the East Asia Study Group initiated by the Republic of Korea and the Framework Agreement on ASEAN-China Economic Cooperation. We tasked our economic ministers to study and formulate options on the gradual formation of an East Asia Free Trade Area and report the results to us at the next summit.

21. We thanked H.E. Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi of Japan for the IDEA programme. We confirmed our commitment to, "act together, advance together" in the areas of economic infrastructure, human resource development, institutional capacity-building of both the public and private sectors, and making conditions favourable for trade and investment.
22. We received the Final Report of the East Asia Study Group from H.E. Prime Minister Kim Suk-Soo of the Republic of Korea. The group identified 17 concrete short-term measures and nine medium-to-long-term measures to move East Asian cooperation significantly forward. Leaders agreed with the Republic of Korea's vision for ASEAN + 3 summits to evolve in the long term into East Asian summits and eventually an East Asian Free Trade Area.
23. We reiterated our continued support for the peaceful reunification of Korea and the spirit of the 15 June 2000 North-South Joint Declaration. We welcomed the Inter-Korea dialogue and normalization talks between Japan and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). We also reiterated our commitment to the nuclear non-proliferation regime. In this regard, we called for a nuclear weapons-free Korean peninsula, as envisaged by the two Koreas' agreements to this effect and the Agreed Framework of 1994 which will contribute to the peace and stability of the peninsula and the region as a whole. In calling upon the DPRK to visibly honour its commitment to give up nuclear weapons programmes, we reaffirmed our commitment to ensure a peaceful resolution of this issue.
24. China, Japan and the Republic of Korea expressed their support for the early inclusion of Cambodia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Myanmar in the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) and look forward to closer cooperation with Europe at the next ASEM Summit in Vietnam in 2004.

Deepening Cooperation between ASEAN and China

25. The ASEAN leaders met separately with H.E. Premier Zhu Rongji of China. During the ASEAN-China Summit, we acknowledged the important and growing role of China in regional and world affairs. Premier Zhu outlined China's vision for strengthened ties

with ASEAN, emphasizing the goal of establishing an ASEAN-China Free Trade Area within the next decade.

26. The ASEAN and Chinese leaders signed the Framework Agreement on ASEAN-China Economic Cooperation which will serve as the fulcrum for establishing the free-trade area by 2010 for the older ASEAN members and 2015 for the newer members with flexibility on sensitive commodities. We particularly thanked China for granting special and preferential tariff treatment to Cambodia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Myanmar. In this respect, we welcomed the exchange of notes between China and the three newest ASEAN members in Phnom Penh on November 3.
27. We reiterated ASEAN's invitation to China to participate in the accelerated implementation of sub-regional development cooperation arrangements in addition to the GMS such as BIMP-EAGA and the Malaysia-Indonesia-Singapore growth triangle.
28. The leaders also witnessed the signing of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea which provides for confidence-building activities between ASEAN and China. In addition, the two sides adopted the Joint Declaration of ASEAN and China on Cooperation in the Field of Non-Traditional Security Issues and tasked our ministers to expeditiously specify mechanisms for such cooperation. China expressed its interest to acceded to the Treaty of Amity and cooperation in Southeast Asia and stated its willingness to work with ASEAN to push for early accession to the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapons-Free Zone (SEANFWZ). We also acknowledged the importance of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Agriculture of the People's Republic of China and the ASEAN Secretariat on Agricultural Cooperation, signed in Phnom Penh on November 2.
29. Finally, we appreciate China's reduction of debt obligations of the less-developed ASEAN members and the launching of an information-technology training programme for ASEAN and welcomed the proposal to formulate an ASEAN-China cooperation in programmes in IT. China also confirmed its co-financing towards the completion of SKRL.

Press Statement by the Chairperson of the Ninth ASEAN Summit and the Seventh ASEAN + 3 Summit

Bali, Indonesia, 7 October 2003

1. ASEAN leaders held a very productive meeting this morning following a working dinner last night. It was our Ninth Summit since 1976. Subsequently, we met with leaders from China, Japan, and Republic of Korea, during which we had a very fruitful discussion. This was our seventh "ASEAN+3" Summit since 1997.
2. We took note of the timeliness of the convening of this Summit that our region is being confronted with fundamental changes on the global scene. In responding to those changes as well as present and future challenges, we underlined the importance of a higher degree of coherence of efforts to achieve the objectives of ASEAN Vision 2020 with those aimed at achieving the Millennium Development Goals, and with those in pursuit of our national development agenda.
3. During the ASEAN Summit, we discussed issues of common concern to all members, including political and economic developments, in particular the latest situation on the Korean Peninsula, recent developments on terrorism and the issue of Iraq and the Middle East. ASEAN Leaders also pledged to achieve an ASEAN Community by the year 2020 which would rest on the three pillars of "ASEAN Security Community", "ASEAN Economic Community" and "ASEAN Socio-cultural Community" embodied in the Declaration of ASEAN Concord II (Bali Concord II).
4. At the ASEAN + 3 Summit, we pledged to strengthen our bonds and partnership with China, Japan and the Republic of Korea and bring these in line with our strategy of reinforcing ASEAN's competitiveness through mutually-beneficial trade and investment cooperation.

Declaration of ASEAN Concord II (Bali Concord II)

5. During our discussions at the ASEAN Summit, we were gratified to note the development and progress of ASEAN since the inception of the Declaration of ASEAN Concord in this historic place of Bali, Indonesia in 1976. We gladly noted the accession to the Treaty of Amity of Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC) by China and India. We

noted with appreciation the intention of some Dialogue Partners to accede to the Treaty. We encouraged other countries, particularly our Dialogue Partners, to do so.

6. We fully acknowledged the need to further consolidate and enhance the achievements of ASEAN as a dynamic, resilient, and cohesive regional association working for the well-being of its peoples. We also affirmed the need to further strengthen the guidelines for achieving a coherent and clear path of ASEAN cooperation with reference to ASEAN Vision 2020, the Hanoi Plan of Action (1999-2004) and succeeding plans of action, the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI), and the Roadmap for Integration of ASEAN (RIA).
7. We were also delighted to note the deepening of regional economic integration in the Southeast Asian region. We reaffirmed our primary responsibility to strengthen the economic and social stability of the region and to ensure peaceful and progressive national development. We reiterated our determination to protect our region's stability and security from external interference in any form or manner in accordance with ideals and aspirations of our peoples. For the sustainability of our region's economic development we affirmed the need for a secure political environment based on a strong foundation of mutual interests generated by economic cooperation. In this regard, we reiterated that ASEAN is envisioning the TAC as a fully functioning and effective code of conduct governing relations between states.
8. We also reaffirmed our commitment to enhance ASEAN's economic linkages with the world economy, including through the ASEAN+3 process, in order to realize an ASEAN Economic Community by adopting a bold, pragmatic and unified strategy.

ASEAN Community

9. At the 9th ASEAN Summit, we adopted the Declaration of ASEAN Concord II (Bali Concord II) to reaffirm ASEAN as a concert of Southeast Asian nations, bonded together in partnership, in dynamic development and in a community of caring societies.
10. We agreed to establish an ASEAN Community that would be supported by the three pillars of "political and security cooperation", "economic cooperation", and "socio-cultural cooperation." These would be closely intertwined and mutually reinforcing in the effort to achieve peace, stability and prosperity. We agreed that through this effort we would reach a closer and mutually beneficial integration among our member countries and among our peoples. We also agreed to continue our efforts to promote regional peace and stability, security, development and prosperity with a view to realizing a dynamic and resilient ASEAN Community. To this end, we adopted the framework to achieve this ASEAN Community through ASEAN Security Community, ASEAN Economic Community and ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community. We agreed to task our

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Ministers to implement the Declaration of ASEAN Concord II.

ASEAN Security Community (ASC)

11. We envisaged that the ASEAN Security Community would bring ASEAN's political and security cooperation to a higher plane, and would ensure that ASEAN members live in peace with one another and in peace with the world in a just, democratic and harmonious environment.
12. We also agreed that members of the ASEAN Security Community would rely exclusively on peaceful means in the settlement of intra regional differences and regard their security as fundamentally linked to one another and bound by geographic location, common vision and objectives. The ASEAN Security Community, recognizing the sovereign right of the member countries to pursue their individual foreign policies and defense arrangements and taking into account the strong interconnections among political, economic and social realities, would subscribe to the principle of comprehensive security as having broad political, economic, social and cultural aspects in consonance with ASEAN Vision 2020 rather than to a defense pact, military alliance or a joint foreign policy.
13. We emphasized that the ASEAN Security Community should fully utilize the existing institutions and mechanisms within ASEAN with a view to strengthening national and regional capacities to counter terrorism and other trans-national crimes; and should work to ensure that the Southeast Asian Region remained free of all weapons of mass destruction. It should enable ASEAN to demonstrate greater capacity and responsibility to serve as the primary driving force of the ASEAN Regional Forum.
14. We emphasized that the High Council of the TAC would be a principal instrument of the ASEAN Security Community since it reflects ASEAN's commitment to resolve all differences, disputes, and conflicts peacefully.
15. We recognized that maritime issues and concerns were trans-boundary in nature, and therefore should be addressed regionally in a holistic, integrated and comprehensive manner. To this end, we underlined the need to establish an ASEAN maritime forum. We agreed that maritime cooperation in ASEAN contribute to the evolution of the ASEAN Security Community.
16. We decided to explore innovative ways of enhancing our security and to establish modalities for the ASEAN Security Community, which include the following elements: norms-setting, conflict prevention, approaches to conflict resolution, and post-conflict peace building. In this regard, we approved our officials' recommendation that Indonesia develop the Plan of Action for the ASEAN Security Community which would

be reported to the 37th AMM in Jakarta in 2004 and would be subsequently endorsed by the Leaders at the 10th ASEAN Summit in Vientiane in 2004. The Plan of Action is part and parcel of the Bali Concord II, thus it would be treated as an Annex to the Bali Concord II.

ASEAN Economic Community (AEC)

17. We agreed that the ASEAN Economic Community enhance ASEAN competitiveness, improve ASEAN's investment environment and narrow the development gap amongst ASEAN members. We emphasized that the ASEAN Economic Community would be the realization of the end-goal of the economic integration stipulated in ASEAN Vision 2020.
18. We noted that our Ministers had deliberated on the concept of an ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) and we agreed on the creation of AEC to achieve deeper economic integration of the region, as outlined in the Roadmap for Integration of ASEAN (RIA) and Vision 2020. We further noted that the AEC would be characterized by a single market and production base, with free flow of goods, services, investment and labor, and freer flow of capital.
19. We recognized that the realization of a fully integrated economic community requires implementation of both liberalization and cooperation measures. There is a need to enhance cooperation and integration activities in other areas. These will involve, among others, human resources development and capacity building; recognition of educational qualifications; closer consultation on macroeconomic and financial policies; trade financing measures; enhanced infrastructure and communications connectivity; development of electronic transaction through e-ASEAN; integrating industries across the region to promote regional sourcing; and enhancing private sector involvement.
20. The leaders exchanged views on the possibility of advancing the end date of the AEC and the idea of adopting a "2+x" approach to ASEAN economic integration besides the existing "ASEAN-x" formula. In the 2+x approach, it was proposed two countries that are ready to cooperate on specific sectors could work together first. To further enhance ASEAN's integration, each member country is supposed to designate a minister who would be national focal point for ASEAN economic integration.
21. To achieve an integrated economic community, we adopted a progressive approach as outlined in the Recommendations of the High-Level Task Force on ASEAN Economic Integration and as annexed to the Bali Concord II.

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ASEAN Socio-cultural Community (ASCC)

22. We envisaged an ASEAN Socio-cultural Community in consonance with the goal set by ASEAN Vision 2020, in which we would be bonded together in partnership as a community of caring societies. Through the ASEAN Socio-cultural Community, we could foster our cooperation in social and rural population, and at the same time, seek the active involvement of all sectors of society, including women, youth and community groups. The ASEAN Socio-cultural Community would intensify cooperation in addressing problems associated with population growth, education, unemployment, prevention of infectious diseases such as HIV/AIDS and SARS, environmental degradation and trans-boundary pollution. In this regard, we supported our officials' recommendation to ask the Philippines to develop the Plan of Action for the ASEAN Socio-cultural Community which would be reported to the 37th AMM in Jakarta in 2004 and subsequently endorsed by the Leaders at the 10th ASEAN Summit in Vientiane in 2004. The Plan on Action is part and parcel of the Bali Concord II, thus it would be treated as an Annex to the Bali Concord II.

Regional and International Political and Economic Issues

23. We firmly agreed to continue to undertake and build on the specific measures outlined in the ASEAN Declaration on Joint Action to Counter Terrorism, which we adopted in Brunei Darussalam in November 2001. We committed ourselves to intensifying our efforts, collectively and individually, to prevent, counter and suppress the activities of terrorist groups in the region. We underlined the need to maintain practical cooperative measures among ourselves and with the international community.
24. We reaffirmed our determination to work together in mitigating the adverse impact of terrorist attacks on ASEAN countries and urged the international community to assist us in these efforts. We pledged to ensure the security and harmony of our societies and the safety of our peoples and also of others visiting or residing in our countries and in the region.
25. The Leaders welcomed the recent positive developments in Myanmar and the Government's pledge to bring about a transition to democracy through dialogue and reconciliation. The roadmap as outlined by the Prime Minister of Myanmar that would involve all strata of Myanmar society is a pragmatic approach and deserves understanding and support. The Leaders also agree that sanctions are not helpful in promoting peace and stability essential for democracy to take root.
26. We noted that current developments in Iraq and the Middle East remained cause for great concern. With regard to post-war situation in Iraq, we reaffirmed our position

that the United Nations must continue to play a central role in the reconstruction and rehabilitation of Iraq in accordance with the aspirations of its people and with the UN's responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security.

27. ASEAN Leaders reiterated their support for the Roadmap for Peace initiative to end the violence in the Middle East and to secure durable peace on the basis of justice and which would lead to the realization of a viable Palestinian state. We reaffirmed the right to peaceful co-existence of all states in the region within recognized and secure boundaries.

Other Matters

28. We took note of the need for a comprehensive approach and better cross-sectoral coordination to improve ASEAN mechanisms and processes and thereby ensure effective implementation of decisions. In this regard, we stressed the need to revive the Joint Ministerial Meeting (JMM), which would function as a filtering mechanism that would enable us to focus on the most important issues of common concern.
29. We reaffirmed the decisions we reached at the ASEAN+China Summit on SARS in April 2003, and the timely follow-up action by our Health Ministers that resulted from their meeting in June 2003. We underlined the need to further strengthen cooperation among the health and other relevant agencies to promote, and facilitate the exchange and sharing of information as well as strengthen the early warning system to deal with and prevent the spread of SARS and other communicable diseases.
30. We agree to maintain our support for the role of the ASEAN Business Advisory Council as a key component to the overall strategy of increasing the private sector's presence in ASEAN economic policy deliberations. We took note of ABAC recommendations on the need to increase competitiveness of ASEAN companies, especially SMEs, in the global market, particularly in the field of tourism and agriculture. To this end, we underlined the need for closer coordination between the private sector and relevant government agencies in the implementation of the recommendations.

Deepening East Asia Cooperation

31. We held discussions with our colleagues from China, Japan and the Republic of Korea on regional and international political, security and economic issues. We also consolidated and reaffirmed our cooperation and partnership with China, Japan and the Republic of Korea.
32. ASEAN+3 Leaders expressed concern at the recent terrorist attacks in Jakarta and at the UN Headquarters in Iraq. We reiterated our determination to intensify our joint

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efforts in combating terrorism in East Asia and our commitment to support global efforts to fight terrorism.

33. ASEAN+3 Leaders welcomed and firmly supported the adoption of the Bali Concord II.
34. We exchanged views on the situation on the Korean Peninsula and reaffirmed our commitment to a peaceful solution of the nuclear issue facing the Korean Peninsula through dialogue. We welcomed the convening of the Six-Party Talk as a positive step towards this end, and we will work together to maintain peace and stability on the Peninsula.
35. We endorsed the Implementation Strategy of the Short-Term Measures of the Final Report of the East Asia Study Group (EASG). We pointed out that the Strategy would ensure that the measures would be implemented effectively, efficiently and systemically. We welcomed the Report of the ASEAN+3 Study Group as presented by the Prime Minister of Japan on Facilitation and Promotion of Exchange of People and Human Resources Development and appreciated the initiative taken in implementing the short-term measures as recommended by the Group. We held discussions on the progress of the Initiative for Development in East Asia in the framework of ASEAN+3 Cooperation.
36. We also explored some new ideas such as to study the feasibility of East Asia Free Trade Area.
37. Finally, we committed ourselves to sustaining the ASEAN+3 process so as to achieve greater synergy through broader and deeper cooperation.

Chairman's Statement of the Eighth ASEAN + 3 Summit

Vientiane, 29 November 2004

Strengthening ASEAN + 3 Cooperation

1. The ASEAN+3 Summit was held successfully on 29 November 2004 in Vientiane. The Meeting was chaired by H.E. Mr. Bounnhang Vorachith, Prime Minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR), and was attended by Heads of State/Government of ASEAN, China, Japan and the Republic of Korea. It was the first time that the Lao PDR was privileged of hosting and chairing this important Summit.
2. We welcomed President of Indonesia, H.E. Dr. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono; Prime Minister of Malaysia, H.E. Dato' Abdullah Bin Haji Ahmad Badawi; Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, H.E. Mr. Lieutenant General Soe Win, and Prime Minister of Singapore, H.E. Mr. Lee Hsien Loong who participated in the ASEAN+3 Summit for the first time. We also welcomed and congratulated H.E. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo on her re-election as President of the Philippines.
3. We exchanged views on regional and international political and security, and economic issues. We also discussed ways and mechanisms to strengthen the ASEAN+3 cooperation and its future direction. The ASEAN+3 Leaders shared their concerns on the challenges facing the region and the world such as terrorism, recent developments in Iraq, Middle East, and current situation in the Korean Peninsula, as well as the avian flu outbreak and other challenges to socio-economic development such as poverty, development gap, etc. We reiterated our determination to further make concerted efforts to fight terrorism in East Asia and our commitment to support global efforts to combat international terrorism.
4. We reaffirmed our commitment to a peaceful and comprehensive solution to the nuclear issue on the Korean Peninsula and the necessity to engage in dialogue to promote mutual confidence and common approach. In this connection, we noted with encouragement the achievement by the three rounds of the Six-Party Talks, and we shared the view that the Six-Party Talks should be reconvened at the earliest possibility to bring about the common goal of denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula.

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5. We welcomed the accession of the Republic of Korea and the Russian Federation to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia, and encouraged other non-Southeast Asian countries to accede to the Treaty. We shared the view that efforts should be pursued to enhance the role of the Treaty as a code of conduct for the inter-state relations in the region.
6. Taking into account the current high oil price, we supported energy cooperation, in particular, in alternative energy, such as bio-fuels, and hydroelectric power. We welcomed the outcomes of the 1st ASEAN+3 Energy Ministers Meeting in the Philippines in June 2004.
7. We noted with satisfaction the steady progress in ASEAN+3 cooperation and encouraged a speedy implementation of the short and long term measures of the East Asia Study Group (EASG), which we adopted in 2002, aiming to broadening and deepening East Asia cooperation. We also noted the expanding and deepening of ASEAN+3 sectoral cooperation, especially in the monetary and financial and economic sectors. In this regard, we welcomed the setting up of the ASEAN+3 Unit in the ASEAN Secretariat last year. We expressed the need to strengthen the ASEAN+3 Unit in coordination and implementation of the cooperation and welcomed the Plus Three countries assistance to the Unit.
8. We recognised the need to develop the Asian Bond Market, and to combat emerging diseases through new mechanisms, such as the establishment of "Outbreak Response Teams".
9. We exchanged views on the establishment of an East Asia Free Trade Area (EAFTA) and welcomed the decision by the ASEAN+3 Economic Ministers to set up an expert group to conduct a feasibility study on EAFTA.
10. The Leaders of the Plus Three countries supported ASEAN Leaders' decision to convene the first East Asia Summit (EAS) in Malaysia in 2005. The ASEAN+3 Leaders supported Japan's proposal to host an ASEAN+3 Foreign Ministers Meeting in Kyoto in May 2005 to discuss the concept and modalities of an EAS.
11. We agreed that the establishment of an East Asian Community is a long-term objective. We reaffirmed the role of ASEAN+3 process as the main vehicle for the eventual establishment of an East Asian Community. China, Japan, and the Republic of Korea reiterated their support for ASEAN's role as the major driving force in East Asia cooperation. In addition, to mark the 10th Anniversary of the ASEAN+3 cooperation in 2007, we agreed to consider the idea of issuing the 2nd Joint Statement on East Asia cooperation as well as a work plan to consolidate the existing and future cooperation.
12. The Leaders of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea welcomed the adoption of

the Vientiane Action Programme (VAP) and expressed their support to ASEAN in implementing activities and projects in support of the VAP. They agreed to strengthen their efforts in assisting ASEAN to narrow the development gaps within ASEAN, and between ASEAN and the Plus Three countries.

13. The Leaders of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea also welcomed the CLMV and the CLV Summits and expressed their support to the implementation of the Vientiane Declaration on Enhancing Economic Cooperation and Integration among Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Viet Nam; and the Vientiane Declaration on the Establishment of the Cambodia-Laos-Viet Nam Development Triangle.
14. The ASEAN Leaders acknowledged with appreciation to China, Japan, and the Republic of Korea for their assistance in implementing projects under the IAI Work Plan. They also expressed appreciation to China, Japan and the Republic of Korea for their support to Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar to participate in the Asia-Europe Meeting.

Chairman's Statement of the Ninth ASEAN Plus Three Summit

Kuala Lumpur, 12 December 2005

1. The ASEAN Plus Three Summit was held successfully on 12 December 2005 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The Meeting was chaired by the Honourable Dato' Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, Prime Minister of Malaysia, and was attended by Heads of State/ Government of ASEAN Member Countries, the People's Republic of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea.
2. We signed the Kuala Lumpur Declaration on the ASEAN Plus Three Summit to reaffirm our commitment to ASEAN Plus Three cooperation, which has achieved substantial progress in the last eight years. We agreed to continue holding the ASEAN Plus Three Summit annually in conjunction with the ASEAN Summit to guide and provide political momentum to East Asian cooperation and community building efforts.
3. We agreed that the ASEAN Plus Three process will continue to be the main vehicle in achieving that goal, with ASEAN as the driving force, and with the active participation of the ASEAN Plus Three countries, in order to promote shared ownership. We reiterated our common resolve to realise an East Asian community as a long-term objective that would contribute to the maintenance of regional and global peace, security, progress and prosperity.
4. We noted with satisfaction the steady progress achieved in the ASEAN Plus Three cooperation in the last eight years, which had brought about mutual benefits and closer linkages, thereby contributing to community building in East Asia. In this regard, we noted the progress made in the implementation of East Asia Study Group (EASG) short-term, and medium and long-term measures. We agreed to accelerate the implementation of all the short-term measures by 2007 as well as to expedite the carrying out of the medium and long-term measures. We noted the ongoing feasibility study by the Expert Group on the East Asia Free Trade Area. We reaffirmed the need to strengthen the ASEAN Plus Three Unit at the ASEAN Secretariat to coordinate and implement cooperation. We welcomed concrete offers by the Plus Three Countries to promote substantive cooperation.

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5. We noted the policy recommendations of the 3rd Meeting of Network of East Asia Think Tank (NEAT) in August 2005 entitled "Towards an East Asia Community" in August 2005 in Tokyo, and the outcomes of the 3rd East Asia Forum held in October 2005 in Beijing. We requested our Ministers and Senior Officials to study the recommendations and proposals of these meetings. We also noted the successful convening of the Joint Study Convention on East Asia Cooperation, which China convened on 30 October 2005.
6. We welcomed the developments in the Asian Bond Market Initiative (ABMI) and the Chiang Mai Initiative (CMI), which are making important contribution to the monetary and financial stability of our region. We also welcomed Thailand's proposal to host the First Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) Finance Minister's Meeting in 2006 to promote ABMI in the ACD framework.
7. We welcomed the proposal to hold East Asia week annually to promote, among others, arts and culture, awareness about East Asia cooperation and foster people-to-people bonds.
8. The ASEAN Leaders expressed their appreciation to China, Japan, and the Republic of Korea for their assistance in narrowing the development gap in ASEAN and ASEAN integration through, among others, their support in implementing various projects under the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) Work Plan and sub-regional growth areas in ASEAN.
9. The Leaders of the Plus Three countries agreed to continue their support to ASEAN Community building efforts, including through the Vientiane Action Programme (VAP), which would at the same time contribute to the building of an East Asian community in the long-term.
10. We further agreed to take stock of ASEAN Plus Three cooperation since 1997 and issue a second Joint Statement on East Asia Cooperation and Work Plan at our Summit in 2007 to consolidate existing cooperation and set the future direction for the cooperation and East Asian community building on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the ASEAN Plus Three cooperation in 2007.
11. We exchanged views on regional and international political and security, and economic issues of common interest and concern.
12. We shared our concerns on the challenges facing the region and the world as a whole, such as terrorism, maritime security and other transnational crime, the outbreak of avian influenza, and natural disasters. We reiterated our commitment to cooperate within the ASEAN Plus Three framework and participate actively in other regional and global efforts in addressing these challenges. In this regard, we welcomed Malaysia's

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proposal to establish a regional WHO collaborating centre for influenza and a Regional Avian Influenza Research and Reference Centre in Malaysia, as contribution towards global health security.

13. We reaffirmed the urgent need to address energy security issues. We noted that policy dialogue as well as search for alternative or renewable sources of energy such as hydro power, solar and bio-fuel from palm oil, sugar cane and even coconut could be cooperative initiatives we could look into. We noted that we could exchange best practices and technologies on energy efficiency and conservation. We tasked our Ministers and Senior Officials to study cooperation in this sector.
14. We recognised the need to address issues concerning the environment and sustainable development. We also acknowledged the importance to foster cooperation in the areas of transport and communication, including information communication technology in bridging the digital gap and promoting people-to-people linkages. We tasked our Ministers and Senior Officials to study possible areas for cooperation, including greater utilisation of IT in community building.
15. We reaffirmed our commitment to the peaceful and comprehensive solution to the nuclear issue of the Korean Peninsula. In this connection, we welcomed the Joint Statement of the Fourth Round of the Six-Party Talks adopted on 19 September 2005.
16. We welcomed the convening of the first East Asia Summit (EAS) on 14 December 2005 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. We shared the views that the EAS should be convened annually and that the EAS will play a significant role in this region. The EAS will be consistent with and reinforce ASEAN's efforts in building the ASEAN Community. We recognised that the EAS will contribute to the evolving regional architecture. We look forward to a fruitful deliberation of the EAS.

Chairman's Statement of the 10th ASEAN Plus Three Summit

Cebu, Philippines, 14 January 2007

1. The ASEAN Plus Three (APT) Summit chaired by President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, President of the Republic of the Philippines, was held successfully on 14 January 2007 in Cebu, Philippines. The Heads of State/Government of ASEAN Member Countries had a productive meeting with the Heads of State/Government of the People's Republic of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea.
2. We recalled the adoption of the Kuala Lumpur Declaration on the ASEAN Plus Three Summit in December 2005, which reaffirmed our commitment to ASEAN Plus Three cooperation as the main vehicle in achieving a long-term goal of realizing an East Asia community, with ASEAN as the driving force, and with the active participation of the Plus Three countries.
3. We also noted the scheduled adoption of the Second Joint Statement on East Asia Cooperation at the 11th APT Summit in 2007 in Singapore, on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of APT cooperation. We affirmed that, in addition to reviewing a decade of accomplishments, the Second Joint Statement should identify opportunities and challenges, and offer strategic guidance for the future direction of APT, with the aim of building an open regionalism connected to the world.
4. We noted with satisfaction the steady progress achieved in APT cooperation in the last nine years, including the implementation of East Asia Study Group's (EASG) short, and medium and long-term measures.
5. We noted the recent expansion of APT cooperation to the following areas: women, poverty alleviation, disaster management and minerals. We thus welcomed the offer of China and Japan to host training seminars and workshops in poverty alleviation, women and disaster management.
6. We also welcomed Japan's proposal to support disaster reduction/preparedness

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education and other related projects through the Asia Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC).

7. We acknowledge the importance of the Chinese proposal to set up a regional monitoring center on infectious diseases. We also acknowledge with appreciation Japan's new pledge of USD 67 million for battling avian and pandemic influenza in the region.
8. We acknowledge that the recent expansion and deepening of APT cooperation to socio-cultural areas does not detract from the consistent positive gains made in financial and monetary cooperation. We note with satisfaction that the Chiang Mai Initiative (CMI) of bilateral swap arrangements has expanded to USD75 billion. We acknowledge that the Asian Bond Market Initiative (ABMI) also promotes the development of efficient bond markets in Asia, which can be the engine for long-term financial growth in the region.
9. We welcomed the East Asia Free Trade Area (EAFTA) as a fruitful avenue of integration. At the same time, we noted that we should continue to examine other possible FTA configurations such as the East Asia Summit (EAS). In this connection, we welcomed the outcome of the feasibility study by the Expert Group on the EAFTA, which was spearheaded by China. As a subsequent measure, we also welcomed the proposal of the ROK to conduct the Phase II study involving the in-depth sector-by-sector analysis of the EAFTA.
10. We welcomed the proposal of Japan to establish an Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA).
11. We reaffirmed the urgent need to address energy security and to strengthen existing cooperation on alternative or renewable sources of energy.
12. We welcomed the ROK's proposal to establish an APT Center for the Gifted in Science.
13. The ASEAN Leaders expressed support for the collective leadership of China, Japan and ROK towards a peaceful and comprehensive solution to the nuclear issue on the Korean Peninsula. We reaffirmed the need for the full implementation of UNSC Resolutions 1695 and 1718. We called for concrete and effective steps toward the full implementation of the 19 September 2005 Joint Statement of the Six-Party Talks and the denuclearization of the Peninsula. We also urged North Korea to respond to the humanitarian concerns of the international community, including the abduction issue.
14. We welcomed the convening of the Seventh China, Japan and Republic of Korea

Summit which was also held today in Cebu.

15. We also noted the Memorandum No. 3 on Policy Recommendations on Strengthening the Pillars of East Asian Community Building, prepared by the Network of East Asian Think Tanks (NEAT), which may form part of the stocktaking of APT cooperation.
16. We agreed that ultimately, we should sustain those fora and cooperative frameworks that have the greatest positive impact on the peoples of East Asia. This means putting ASEAN community-building at the center, according priority to the successful implementation of the Vientiane Action Programme (VAP), narrowing the development gap and facilitating ASEAN integration. We thanked the Plus Three countries for their firm support for the VAP, Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) Work Plan, BIMP-EAGA, Mekong Region Development, ACMECS and other sub-regional growth areas in ASEAN.
17. We recognized that with the ASEAN Community at the center of our long-term pursuit of an East Asia community, the APT process could make positive contributions to the maintenance of regional and global peace, security, progress and prosperity.
18. We reiterated that the APT is an essential part of the evolving regional architecture, complementary to the East Asia Summit and other regional fora.

Chairman's Statement of the 11th ASEAN Plus Three Summit

Singapore, 20 November 2007

1. The ASEAN Plus Three (APT) Summit chaired by H.E. Lee Hsien Loong, Prime Minister of the Republic of Singapore, was held on 20 November 2007 in Singapore. The Heads of State/Government of ASEAN Member Countries had a substantive meeting with the Heads of State/Government of the People's Republic of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea.
2. We were happy to gather in Singapore to celebrate the 10th anniversary of APT cooperation. We reviewed the APT's significant achievements in the past decade, and discussed its future direction. We reiterated that APT cooperation would continue to support ASEAN integration with the objective to realise the ASEAN community, and play a key role in regional community building efforts for the long-term goal of realising an East Asia community with ASEAN as the driving force.
3. We reiterated that the APT is an integral part of the evolving regional architecture, mutually reinforcing and complementary to the East Asia Summit (EAS), ASEAN Regional Forum, Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation and other regional fora. We also shared the view that the EAS, which evolved from an East Asia Study Group (EASG) long-term measure, will continue to play a key role in this region and promote community building in the region.
4. We adopted the Second Joint Statement on East Asia Cooperation and APT Cooperation Work Plan (2007-2017). The Second Joint Statement would provide strategic and practical guidance for the future development of the APT process.
5. The ASEAN Leaders welcomed the Plus Three countries' continued contribution to ASEAN integration in order to realise the ASEAN Community, and their commitment to an open and inclusive approach to regional community building efforts. The ASEAN Leaders expressed their appreciation to the Plus Three countries for their assistance in narrowing the development gap in ASEAN through, among others, support in implementing projects under the Vientiane Action Programme, Initiative for ASEAN Integration and sub-regional growth initiatives in ASEAN.

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6. We exchanged views on regional and international issues of common concern and agreed to work together to tackle transboundary challenges such as climate change, terrorism, traditional and non-traditional security issues, pandemic diseases and natural disasters.
7. The ASEAN Leaders expressed support for the efforts of China, Japan and ROK, as well as the Six-Party Talks, in pursuit of a peaceful and comprehensive resolution to the nuclear issue on the Korean Peninsula. In this respect, we welcomed the DPRK's agreement to disable all existing nuclear facilities subject to abandonment under the September 2005 Joint Statement and the February 13 agreement, as well as the Inter-Korean Summit in October 2007. We look forward to the Six-Party Ministerial Meeting to be held in Beijing. We also emphasised the importance of addressing the issue of humanitarian concerns of the international community.
8. We looked forward to further progress in the multilateralisation of the Chiang Mai Initiative and the Asian Bond Market Initiative, and the establishment of the APT Regional Foreign Exchange Reserve Pool at an early date to enhance financial stability and promote regional financing facility. We were also gratified by recent developments in APT energy cooperation.
9. We noted that the APT Cooperation Work Plan (2007-2017) highlighted key measures to deepen cooperation over the next decade. The Work Plan set out four new areas of APT cooperation, amongst others – namely rural development and poverty eradication, disaster management, minerals and women issues. We endorsed the proposal to establish an APT Cooperation Fund expeditiously to facilitate the implementation of the Work Plan.
10. We welcomed Singapore's proposal to hold the 3rd East Asia Week in 2008 to promote, among others, cooperation among our youths, arts and culture, awareness about East Asia cooperation and people-to-people bonds. We also welcomed Thailand's proposal to organize an APT Forum on Nuclear Energy Safety in 2008 in order to tap on the region's expertise on nuclear energy safety.
11. We noted the concrete projects raised by the Plus Three Leaders at the meeting to further APT cooperation.
 - China proposed to organise a seminar on life sciences; ICT training programme; workshop on international disaster relief by armed forces; APT armed forces forum on non-traditional security issues; seminar on international law enforcement training institute; and seminar on media cooperation. We tasked our officials to consider and if feasible to follow up on the proposals. China also announced that it would further contribute \$15 million to its Special Fund for Asia Regional Cooperation.

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- Japan updated the Leaders on the preliminary meeting of the APT Committee on Women and its proposal to host the "APT Human Security Symposium on Women and Poverty Eradication" again next year, following the first successful Symposium that was held in Japan in July 2007. Japan also highlighted its initiative to host an APT Digital Art Forum next year.
 - The ROK informed the Leaders of the progress made this year in the Phase 2 Study of the East Asia Free Trade Area (EAFTA) that focused on a sector-by-sector analysis. The ROK also referred to its proposal for an APT Centre for the Gifted in Science, and stressed that it would be happy to share its experiences in information technology development to help narrow the development gap in ASEAN.
12. We reviewed with satisfaction the progress in the implementation of the EASG's measures. We noted that there was a proposal to establish a secretariat for the East Asia Business Council which was under consideration. We also noted the policy recommendations of the 5th Meeting of Network of East Asia Think Tank in August 2007 entitled "Memorandum No. 4 – Policy Recommendations on East Asia Cooperation: Towards Sustainable Development and Prosperity" in August 2007 in Singapore, and the outcomes of the 5th East Asia Forum held in November 2007 in Tokyo.
 13. We were happy to note that the 8th China, Japan and Republic of Korea Summit was held on 20 November 2007 in Singapore.

Chairman's Statement of the 12th ASEAN Plus Three Summit

Cha-am Hua Hin, Thailand, 24 October 2009

1. The 12th ASEAN Plus Three Summit chaired by H.E. Mr. Abhisit Vejjajiva, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand, was convened on 24 October 2009 in Cha-am Hua Hin, Thailand. The Summit was attended by Heads of State/Government of ASEAN Member States, the People's Republic of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea.
2. We reaffirmed our support for a peaceful and comprehensive solution on the issues of the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and the humanitarian concerns of the international community through diplomatic channels and cooperation among all the parties concerned. We reiterated our full support for an early resumption of the Six-Party Talks to facilitate long-term peace and stability in the region. We also reaffirmed our commitment to implement the provisions of the relevant UNSC resolutions and urged the DPRK to fully comply with them.
3. We encouraged the Myanmar Government to ensure the implementation of the Seven-Step Roadmap to Democracy. We also continued to support the on-going good offices of the United Nations Secretary-General in the democratization process in Myanmar. We welcomed the affirmation by the Prime Minister of Myanmar that the General Elections to be held in 2010 would be conducted in a free, fair and inclusive manner.
4. We noted the convening of the 2nd China-Japan-ROK Trilateral Summit in Beijing on 10 October 2009 as a positive development for East Asia cooperation. The ASEAN Leaders appreciated the Plus Three countries' firm commitment to enhance their cooperation with ASEAN and to support ASEAN as the driving force for cooperation in East Asia.
5. We welcomed the outcome of the G20 Summit in Pittsburgh on 24-25 September 2009. We reiterated our support to the efforts to enhance macroeconomic coordination, restore growth and jobs, resist protectionism, and reform the international financial system and institutions. We also supported the need to reach an ambitious and balanced conclusion of the Doha Development Agenda.
6. We reiterated our commitment to work together to implement the Joint Press Statement

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on ASEAN+3 Cooperation in Response to the Global Economic and Financial Crisis issued by Thailand, as the ASEAN Chair and the ASEAN Plus Three Coordinator, on behalf of the ASEAN Plus Three Leaders, on 3 June 2009.

7. We supported boosting tourism in the East Asian region that would increase our economic growth by 1-2%. We also committed ourselves to provide a conducive environment for the participation of our private sectors in the revitalization of our economies.
8. We noted the Action Plan to Restore Economic and Financial Stability of the Asian Region submitted by the ASEAN+3 Finance Ministers who met at their Special Meeting in Phuket in February 2009. We endorsed the agreement reached at the 12th ASEAN Plus Three Finance Ministers' Meeting on 3 May 2009 in Bali to implement the Chiang Mai Initiative Multilateralisation (CMIM) with the total size of US\$120 billion by the end of 2009 and to set up an independent regional surveillance unit. We welcomed Thailand's offer to temporarily host such unit. We also welcomed the agreement to establish the Credit Guarantee and Investment Mechanism (CGIM) with an initial capital of US\$500 million under the Asian Bond Markets Initiative (ABMI) to support the local currency-denominated corporate bond in our region. We welcomed China's contribution of US\$200 million to the CGIM.
9. We reiterated our commitment to ensure food and energy security for our people as a matter of high priority in accordance with Cha-am Hua Hin Statement on ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation on Food Security and Bio-Energy Development adopted at this Summit. We urged all relevant ASEAN Plus Three sectoral bodies to implement this Statement.
10. We expressed our commitment to work closely together to ensure a successful outcome of the Copenhagen Conference in December 2009 that should incorporate long-term cooperative actions to address climate change in accordance with the principles and provisions of the UNFCCC and the Bali Action Plan.
11. We expressed our condolences for the tragic loss of life and suffering caused by recent natural disasters in the region. With the increased frequency and intensity of natural disasters, we recognized that there is a need to develop a permanent regional emergency rice reserve. We noted progress in the East Asia Emergency Rice Reserve (EAERR) Pilot Project, which will expire on 28 February 2010. We welcomed the efforts to transform the EAERR into a permanent mechanism under the ASEAN Plus Three Emergency Rice Reserve (APTERR). We urged our Agriculture and Forestry Ministers who will meet in Brunei Darussalam in November 2009 to work towards the early realization of APTERR in order to ensure the continuation of regional food security

- mechanism after the expiration of the EAERR Pilot Project.
12. We noted the progress of ASEAN Plus Three energy cooperation, especially the development of the Oil Stockpiling Roadmap, the finalization of the 2nd ASEAN+3 Energy Outlook, the reactivation of the ASEAN+3 Energy Communication System, and the enhancement of the Joint Oil Data Initiative. We also welcomed initiatives and activities to promote cooperation on civilian nuclear energy. We noted the convening of the 2nd ASEAN Plus Three Forum on Nuclear Energy Safety in China in June 2009 and the ROK's proposal for cooperation on civilian nuclear energy.
 13. We noted the final report of the Phase II feasibility study of the East Asia Free Trade Area (EAFTA) and welcomed the decision of 12th AEM Plus Three Consultations in Bangkok on 15 August 2009 to task the Senior Economic Officials to discuss and consider the recommendations in the Phase I and II reports. EAFTA and Comprehensive Economic Partnership in East Asia (CEPEA) could be examined and considered in parallel.
 14. We urged our Public Health Ministers to redouble their efforts to implement collective measures and joint actions agreed at the ASEAN Plus Three Health Ministers Special Meeting on Influenza A(H1N1) on 8 May 2009 in Bangkok. We noted the progress of ASEAN Plus Three Emerging Infectious Diseases (EID) Programme Phase II, which helps strengthen closer cooperation in preparing for future threats of disease outbreaks.
 15. We noted the policy recommendations of the 6th Meeting of the Network of East Asian Think Tanks (NEAT) in Bali on 24-25 August 2008 contained in Memorandum No.5 and those of the 7th Meeting of NEAT in Seoul on 31 August-1 September 2009 contained in Memorandum No.6. We appreciated the contribution of NEAT as a Track II body of the ASEAN Plus Three process to East Asia community- building and encouraged relevant ASEAN Plus Three sectoral bodies to look into NEAT's policy recommendations. We noted the convening of the 7th East Asia Forum (EAF) in Seoul on 2 September 2009 and its policy recommendations.
 16. We noted the progress report on the implementation of the 2nd Joint Statement on East Asia Cooperation and the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Work Plan (2007-2017). We urged all relevant ASEAN Plus Three sectoral bodies to accelerate the implementation of the Work Plan and encouraged the ASEAN Plus Three countries to volunteer to be a lead shepherd in areas of cooperation in which they are interested or have the capacity to contribute to.
 17. We welcomed Thailand's initiative to be a lead shepherd on education. We tasked our relevant Ministers and officials to consider the Plan of Action for Education prepared by Thailand and welcomed Thailand's offer to hold an ASEAN Plus Three Senior Officials

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Meeting on Education in November 2009 in Bangkok. We also welcomed China's initiative to be the lead shepherd on economic and trade cooperation, Japan's initiative to be the lead shepherd on disaster management and the ROK's initiative to be the lead shepherd on financial cooperation. We tasked our relevant officials to discuss ways to implement those initiatives in line with the ASEAN Charter.

18. We noted that the role and responsibility of the ASEAN Directors-General related to external relations would be transferred to ASEAN's Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR). As a result, the role and responsibility of the ASEAN Plus Three Directors-General Meeting as a monitoring and coordinating body of the ASEAN Plus Three Process will also be transferred to the CPR and the Ambassadors of China, Japan, and the ROK to ASEAN.
19. We welcomed the concrete proposals and progresses raised by the ASEAN Plus Three Leaders as follows:
 - 3rd ASEAN Plus Three Media Cooperation Forum in Beijing in April 2010, ASEAN Plus Three Workshop on Urban Disaster Response Management in China in May 2010, and ASEAN Plus Three Seminar on Promoting Energy Conservation and Emission Reduction of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises in Beijing in June 2010.
 - Japan's new initiative to hold international conferences on disaster management and on university exchange in the East Asian region.
 - ASEAN Plus Three Senior Diplomatic Course in Indonesia in October 2009 and proposal to organize the Promotion of Indonesian Language for ASEAN Plus Three Diplomats in October-November 2009.
 - Preparation for establishing the ASEAN Plus Three Center for the Gifted in Science in the ROK in 2011 and the continuation of projects for ICT Cooperation towards co-prosperity in the East Asia conducted by the ROK.
 - ASEAN Plus Three Higher Education Policy Dialogue in March 2009 in Phuket with a recommendation to establish an ASEAN Plus Three University Network and the East Asia Youth Leadership Forum in 2008 in Bangkok with the Voice of Youths on East Asia Community Building.
20. We reaffirmed our commitment to the ASEAN Plus Three process as a main vehicle towards the long-term goal of building an East Asian community with ASEAN as the driving force. We noted Japan's aspiration to reinvigorate the discussion towards building an East Asian community based on the principle of openness, transparency and inclusiveness and functional cooperation.
21. The Leaders of the Plus Three countries reiterated their firm support for ASEAN

community-building and welcomed the signing of the Cha-am Hua Hin Declaration on a Roadmap to an ASEAN Community at the 14th ASEAN Summit on 1 March 2009. They also welcomed the progress made in implementing the ASEAN Charter at the 15th ASEAN Summit on 23 October 2009 in Cha-am Hua Hin, in particular, the establishment of the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights.

22. We supported the ASEAN Leaders' Statement on ASEAN Connectivity issued on 24 October 2009, and shared a common view that enhanced ASEAN connectivity would benefit the East Asian region as a whole. Recognizing that connectivity would help catalyze regional integration, we supported enhanced linkages both within ASEAN, and between ASEAN and its Plus Three partners. In this regard, we welcomed ASEAN's effort to develop an ASEAN Master Plan on regional connectivity and an infrastructure development fund for ASEAN and expressed our support in these efforts.

Chairman's Statement of the 13th ASEAN Plus Three Summit

Ha Noi, 29 October 2010

1. The 13th ASEAN Plus Three Summit, chaired by H.E. Mr. Nguyen Tan Dung, Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, was held in Ha Noi on 29 October 2010. The Heads of State/Government of ASEAN Member Countries, the People's Republic of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea attended the Meeting.
2. We reaffirmed that the ASEAN Plus Three process with ASEAN as the driving force would continue to be a main vehicle to achieve the long-term goal of building an East Asian community and contribute to the sustainable development in the region. We reaffirmed our strong support for ASEAN's central role in the existing regional mechanisms and in the evolving regional architecture. We recognised the mutually reinforcing and complementary roles of the ASEAN Plus Three process and such regional fora as EAS and ARF to promote East Asian community building.
3. We reviewed with pleasure the progress in ASEAN Plus Three cooperation and the implementation of the 2nd Joint Statement on East Asia Cooperation and the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Work Plan (2007-2017). We were pleased that, given the global economic slowdown, ASEAN Plus Three economic cooperation remained robust with significant trade of US\$413.8 billion and US\$8.2 billion in investment in 2009. We stressed the need for further strengthening policy coordination and sustaining economic growth in the region.
4. We encouraged efforts toward trade and investment liberalisation and facilitation among ASEAN Plus Three Countries. We welcomed the progress made by the four ASEAN Plus Working Groups that were tasked to look into the recommendations of the studies on the East Asia Free Trade Area (EAFTA) and the Comprehensive Economic Partnership in East Asia (CEPEA) in parallel. We tasked relevant officials to recommend specific targets and timelines within which to complete consolidation work, relevant to their respective Terms of Reference. In this connection, we welcomed China's concept paper on the Roadmap on Trade Facilitation among ASEAN Plus Three and noted the decision by ASEAN's Economic Ministers to refer this proposal, together with Japan's

concept paper on the Initial Steps towards Regional Economic Integration in East Asia: A Gradual Approach, to the ASEAN Plus Working Groups for their consideration. We also welcomed China's continued commitment to be the lead shepherd on trade and economic cooperation and US\$1 million special donation from China to the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Fund focusing on EAFTA related activities.

5. We underlined that strengthening financial cooperation is important for financial stability and sustainable economic development in the region and noted with satisfaction recent developments in the ASEAN Plus Three financial cooperation. We welcomed the realisation of the Chiang Mai Initiative Multilateralisation (CMIM) on 24 March 2010 and the operationalisation of the ASEAN Plus Three Macroeconomic Research Office (AMRO) in early 2011. We also welcomed the establishment of ASEAN Plus Three Bond Market Forum (ABMF) and the Credit Guarantee and Investment Facility (CGIF) and expected the CGIF's operationalisation before the end of 2010.
6. We were committed to enhancing transport connectivity within ASEAN as well as between ASEAN and the Plus Three Countries. In this regard, we looked forward to the realisation of the ASEAN Multilateral Agreement on Full Liberalisation of Passenger Air Services (MAFLPAS) and the ASEAN Strategic Transport Plan (ASTP) 2011-2015, which enhance intra-ASEAN transport connectivity as well as intensify and accelerate works on transport facilitation, and transport connectivity with ASEAN Dialogue Partners, especially the Plus Three Countries.
7. We welcomed the adoption of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity and looked forward to contributing to the implementation of the Master Plan. In this connection, we encouraged the Transport Ministers to explore a possibility of establishing an ASEAN Plus Three Ministers Meeting on Transport to enhance ASEAN Plus Three connectivity as stated in the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Work Plan.
8. We reaffirmed the importance of promoting regional economic competitiveness and equitable economic development. In this regard, we welcomed the launching of the "ASEAN Regional Guidelines on Competition Policy", the "Handbook on Competition Policy and Law in ASEAN for Business", and the development of the Strategic Plan of Action for ASEAN Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) Development 2010-2015 to replace the ASEAN Policy Blueprint for SME Development 2004-2014.
9. We reaffirmed the importance of ensuring food security in the region and noted with pleasure the implementation of the Cha-am Hua Hin Statement on ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation on Food Security and Bio-energy Development, such as efforts towards the realisation of the ASEAN Plus Three Comprehensive Strategy on Food Security and Bio-energy Development and the ASEAN Food Security Information System (AFSIS)

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as well as the early conclusion and signing of the ASEAN Plus Three Emergency Rice Reserve (APTERR) Agreement, which will help establish a permanent mechanism to ensure food security in the region.

10. We welcomed the successful convening of the 7th ASEAN Plus Three Energy Ministers Meeting on 22 July 2010 in Viet Nam and tasked relevant Ministers to strengthen energy cooperation. In this connection, we supported the on-going efforts to develop the "3rd ASEAN Energy Demand Outlook" and welcomed initiatives in ASEAN Plus Three energy fora, such as the Energy Security and Oil Stockpiling, Natural Gas and Oil Market, New and Renewable Energy, and Energy Efficiency and Conservation, including the ASEAN Plus Three Oil Stockpiling Roadmap and ASEAN Plus Three Joint Workshop on Effective Energy Efficiency and Conservation Policy Guidelines in June 2010. We also welcomed the intention to develop a comprehensive strategy on sustainable and integrated food and bio-fuels production and consumption as well as programmes to promote the effective use of civilian nuclear energy, coal, oil, natural gas and the development of renewable energy in the region.
11. We noted with appreciation the ASEAN Leaders' Statement on Sustained Recovery and Development issued at the 16th ASEAN Summit in Hanoi on 9 April 2010, the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity adopted at the 17th Summit, and ASEAN's effort to explore effective financing instruments and policies which would contribute to developing East Asia into a region of enhanced connectivity and dynamic growth.
12. We supported the ASEAN Leaders' Joint Statement on Human Resources and Skills Development for Economic Recovery and Sustainable Growth adopted at the 17th ASEAN Summit and ASEAN's measures to improve the quality and capacity of human resources in the region. In this regard, we took note of the Luang Prabang Joint Declaration on ASEAN Plus Three Civil Service Cooperation adopted by the Heads of the ASEAN Conference on Civil Service Matters (ACCSM) Plus Three on 29 October 2010 and looked forward to intensifying cooperation among ASEAN Plus Three countries in the area of human resources.
13. We welcomed the establishment of the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the rights of Women and Children (ACWC) on 7 April 2010 and expressed our support to Ha Noi Declaration on the Enhancement of Welfare and Development of ASEAN Women and Children adopted at the 17th Summit in Hanoi.
14. We reaffirmed the importance of resolving the climate change issues and committed to working closely together towards a positive outcome at COP-16/CMP-6 to be held in Cancun, Mexico in December 2010. In this regard, we noted with appreciation the ASEAN Leaders' Statement on Joint Response to Climate Change on 9 April 2010

- and Viet Nam's initiative to convene an East Asia Forum on Climate Change. We welcomed China for hosting the Tianjing climate negotiation meeting which contributed to the outcome of the Cancun conference. We also welcomed all efforts to address climate change as well as biodiversity issues discussed at the Ministerial Meeting of the REDD+ Partnership in Nagoya, Aichi on 26 October 2010 and the 10th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in Nagoya on 18-29 October 2010. We encouraged enhanced regional and sub-regional cooperation including in the Greater Mekong Sub-region and the Mekong River Commission (MRC).
15. We reaffirmed the need to strengthen cooperation to prevent disease outbreaks and were satisfied with the successful completion of the ASEAN Plus Three Emerging Infectious Diseases (EID) Programme Phase II. We looked forward to the early start of the next phase of cooperation with active participation of ASEAN Plus Three countries. We supported ASEAN's efforts to develop an ASEAN Roadmap on Control of Avian Influenza to ensure the attainment of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI)-free ASEAN by 2020.
 16. We welcomed all efforts to promote ASEAN Plus Three cooperation on disaster management, including the ASEAN Plus Three International Conference on Disaster Management in Tokyo in August 2010, the proposal to utilise information and communication technology in disaster management. In this regard, we welcomed Japan's continued commitment to lead cooperation in this field.
 17. We noted with pleasure that two new areas, namely, information and education had been added to ASEAN Plus Three cooperation. We welcomed the Inaugural Meeting of the ASEAN Plus Three Ministers Responsible for Information (AMRI+3) on 6 November 2009 in Vientiane to explore effective ways and mechanisms of ASEAN Plus Three cooperation in information. We appreciated Thailand's efforts to initiate the ASEAN Plus Three cooperation on education and looked forward to the adoption of an ASEAN Plus Three Plan of Action on Education at the 1st ASEAN Plus Three Senior Officials' Meeting on Education on 25 November 2010 in Bangkok. We welcomed the proposal to convene an ASEAN Plus Three Education Ministers' Meeting in due course.
 18. We welcomed the contribution of US\$3 million by the ASEAN Plus Three countries in the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Fund (APTCF) and looked forward to the increasing number of projects to be proposed by the ASEAN Plus Three countries for funding by the APTCF.
 19. We were pleased at the achievements recorded in ASEAN Plus Three cooperation in other areas, including tourism, science and technology, culture and people-to-people contact. We noted new proposals for cooperation in the ASEAN Plus Three framework

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which, among others, includes cooperation in food safety and standards, deforestation prevention and reforestation.

20. We had broad exchange of views on regional and international issues of common concern. Noting that despite slow and fragile global recovery from the worst international financial crisis, the East Asian economies were among the first to rebound soundly and became one of the key drivers of the global economic recovery. We reiterated our commitment to enhancing macroeconomic coordination, promote growth and jobs, resist protectionism, reach an ambitious and balanced conclusion of Doha Development Agenda (DDA) and reform of the international financial system and institutions. We shared a common concern over the short-term capital inflow into the region and its pressure on local currencies. We tasked our Finance Ministers to consider possible measures to deal with this problem.
21. We expressed our support for the framework for strong, sustainable and balanced growth of the world's economy as pursued by the G20 process. In this regard, we expressed our appreciation to the Republic of Korea for her able chairmanship in preparing for the G20 Summit in Seoul this November. We also reiterated our support for the ASEAN Chairs at G20 Summits on a regular basis. We looked forward to the successful outcome of the APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting in Yokohama on 13-14 November 2010.
22. We stressed the importance of maintaining peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula and in the region. We reaffirmed our support for the complete and verifiable denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. We encouraged all concerned parties to fully implement the Joint Statement of 19 September 2005 and create a conducive environment for the resumption of the Six-Party Talks with a view to achieving long-lasting peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula. We underscored the importance of relevant resolutions of the United Nations Security Council and their implementation, and of addressing the issue of humanitarian concerns of the international community.
23. We appreciated the proposal by the President of the Republic of Korea to establish an East Asia Vision Group II (EAVG II) to do stock-taking and recommend future direction for ASEAN Plus Three cooperation, and tasked our relevant officials to implement this initiative.
24. We also noted the Memorandum No.7 on Policy Recommendations on Strengthening the Pillars of East Asian Community Building, prepared by the Network of East Asian Think Tanks (NEAT) in Manila on 23-24 August 2010. We appreciated the contribution of NEAT and encouraged relevant ASEAN Plus Three sectoral bodies to look into NEAT's policy recommendations.

Chairman's Statement of the 14th ASEAN Plus Three Summit

Bali, Indonesia, 18 November 2011

1. The 14th ASEAN Plus Three Summit, chaired by H.E. Dr. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, President of the Republic of Indonesia, was held in Bali on 18 November 2011. The Heads of State/Government of ASEAN Member Countries, the People's Republic of China, Japan, and the Republic of Korea attended the Meeting.
2. We reviewed with satisfaction the progress made by the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation through the implementation of the 2nd Joint Statement on East Asia Cooperation and the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Work Plan (2007-2017). We noted the significant advancement in the economic and financial cooperation, as well as in the socio-cultural and development cooperation.
3. We encouraged deepening political and security cooperation as the maintenance and enhancement of peace and stability are indispensable conditions for development in the region. In this regard, we reaffirmed the importance of cooperation to promote good governance, strengthen the rule of law, and protect and promote human rights through policy dialogue and capacity building activities. We further decided to enhance cooperation in counter-terrorism, combating cyber crimes, maritime cooperation, and other non-traditional security issues.
4. We shared the view that terror threats, which could pose impediments to the efforts towards the enhancement of the ASEAN connectivity, still exist in the region. In order to ensure the ASEAN integration, we are committed to the continued efforts in combating terrorism and transnational crime. To that end, we encouraged all parties to consolidate and further strengthen their efforts under the ASEAN Plus Three framework in this area.
5. We stressed the importance of maintaining peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula and called on all concerned parties to make efforts to achieve the complete and verifiable denuclearization of the Korean peninsula in accordance with the 2005 Joint Statement of the Six-Party Talks and relevant UN Security Council Resolutions. We highlighted the successful meeting between officials of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Republic of Korea in the margins of the ASEAN Foreign

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Ministers Meeting and Post Ministerial Conferences in Bali last July that exemplified how ASEAN and ASEAN-led mechanisms could create a conducive environment to hold dialogues on difficult issues and problems. We encouraged the parties to promote the necessary conditions for the early resumption of the Six Party Talks. We emphasized the importance of addressing the issues of humanitarian concerns of the international community.

6. We reaffirmed that the ASEAN Plus Three process would continue as a main vehicle towards the long-term goal of building an East Asian community with ASEAN as the driving force. At the same time, we reaffirmed our support for ASEAN centrality in the evolving regional architecture and recognized the mutually reinforcing and complementary roles of the ASEAN Plus Three process and such regional fora as ASEAN Plus One, EAS, and ARF in the East Asian community building process.
7. We noted that despite the downside risks in the global financial and economic crisis, the East Asian economies were among the first to recover, and had become one of the key drivers of the global economic recovery. In this regard, we reiterated our commitment to promote economic growth that is strong, sustainable, and balanced. We highlighted the importance for East Asia countries to accelerate regional integration as a way to fuel the internal growth engine and to promote economic development of the region in a sustainable and healthy way.
8. We recognized the fundamental contribution of international trade to global prosperity and sustainable development and underlined the necessity to push forward the Doha Development Agenda. We underscored the merits of the multilateral trading system as a way to avoid protectionism and inward-looking behavior. We further reiterated the importance of reforming the international financial architecture in which developing economies would assume a greater role in the global economic decision-making process. To that end, we reaffirmed the importance of the ASEAN Chair to continue to participate in the G20 Summits on a regular basis.
9. We welcomed the establishment of the ASEAN Plus Three Macroeconomic Research Office (AMRO) in April 2011, which will contribute to early detection of risks, swift implementation of remedial actions, and effective decision-making of the Chiang Mai Initiative Multilateralisation (CMIM). We encouraged the study on the design of a possible crisis prevention function for CMIM. We welcomed the progress of Asian Bond Markets Initiative (ABMI), including the establishment of the Credit Guarantee and Investment Facility (CGIF) and the timely development of the Asian Bond Market Forum (ABMF), which will contribute to regional economic stability and resilience. We also encouraged current studies on priority areas of future regional financial cooperation.

10. We noted the ASEAN Report on the Emerging Regional Architecture and commended the ASEAN Plus Working Groups (APWGs) for their work on consolidating the ASEAN Plus One FTAs and looking into the recommendations in the East Asia Free Trade Area (EAFTA) and Comprehensive Economic Partnership in East Asia (CEPEA) Studies, particularly in the areas of rules of origin, tariff nomenclature, customs procedures, and economic cooperation. We shared the view that substantive work has been carried out and that it was important to sustain the momentum generated by the EAFTA and CEPEA Studies as well as the ASEAN Plus process. We also welcomed the constructive joint proposal of China and Japan to establish three new working groups for trade and investment liberalization under the EAFTA and CEPEA.
11. We reaffirmed that the ASEAN Plus Three process would continue to be a main vehicle to achieve the long-term goal of building an East Asian community in which the East Asia Summit plays a significant role in the regional community building process. We reaffirmed our strong support for ASEAN's central role in the evolving regional architecture.
12. We noted the adoption of the ASEAN Framework for Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership at the 19th ASEAN Summit. We also noted that the Framework reiterates the importance of ASEAN centrality in the regional economic integration process and sets out the general principles for broadening and deepening ASEAN's engagement with its FTA partners, using as a basis the ASEAN Plus One FTAs and the template that would be developed taking into account the EAFTA and CEPEA initiatives, with a view to considering appropriate next steps for further regional economic integration. We welcomed the decision made by ASEAN, taking into account the joint proposal of Japan and China, to establish ASEAN Plus Working Groups in the areas of Trade in Goods, Trade in Services, and Investment noting in particular that the Working Group on Trade in Goods, that would be set up in early 2012, would also be tasked to follow-up on the outcome of the APWGs on Rules of Origin, Tariff Nomenclature, and Customs Procedures.
13. We reaffirmed our commitment to promote food security in the region in terms of availability, accessibility, diversity, and utilization. We encouraged the increase of production and productivity through greater investment as well as enhanced support in capacity building, research, as well as technological development and transfer in the agricultural sector. In this context, we welcomed steady implementation of the ASEAN Food Security Information System (AFSIS) and its further development based on the Proposal of Post-2012 AFSIS.
14. We also expressed our satisfaction by the signing of the ASEAN Plus Three Emergency

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Rice Reserve (APTERR) Agreement on 7 October 2011 in Jakarta, Indonesia, as a permanent mechanism to ensure food security in the region in time of need. We deliberated on the possibility of establishing modalities to achieve the same aims for other staple foods.

15. We also reaffirmed our commitment to ensure energy security in the region by promoting energy diversification through information exchanges and researches on alternative, new, and renewable energy development, as well as energy conservation, energy efficiency, and the use of clean and environmentally-friendly technologies.
16. We expressed our solidarity and support for the Government and People of Japan in their recovery and reconstruction efforts. We also expressed confidence of the early reconstruction of Japan. To this end, Japan continually provides necessary information such as the current radioactivity level in the affected area in a timely manner. To this end, Japan would continually provide necessary information, such as the current radioactivity level in the affected area in a timely manner. ASEAN Plus Three, in turn, would consider appropriate review to relax restrictions on imports from Japan after the nuclear accident in order to promote trade, investment, travel, and people-to-people links in the region.
17. We welcomed Japan's proposal to hold an international conference/seminar in 2012 to share its experiences and lessons learned from the Great East Japan Earthquake on 11 March 2011, as well as to host the Third World Conference on Disaster Reduction in 2015. We shared the view that ASEAN Plus Three countries should further strengthen regional cooperation in disaster preparedness and relief management to promote a disaster resilient society in the region.
18. We expressed our condolences and sympathies to ASEAN Member States affected by the recent devastating floods. We see the need to enhance cooperation on flood mitigation and sustainable water resource management as provided under the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Work Plan (2007-2017). We tasked our relevant Ministers and officials to come up with concrete plans and proposals to enhance this cooperation.
19. We expressed our support to fully utilize the recently launched ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre) to ensure close cooperation and coordination. We underlined the need to focus on enhancing our collective capacity, namely through disaster relief exercises invoking appropriate civil-military components in disaster rapid and effective response, as well as the development of a regional arrangement to remove or minimize a number of bottlenecks that impede the timely delivery of support.
20. We decided to further explore the possibility of establishing a crisis management center

to respond quickly and effectively to various emergencies, including natural disaster and financial crisis, in the region by coordinating the various mechanisms under the ASEAN Plus Three cooperation framework.

21. We reiterated our strong commitment in strengthening cooperation and joint efforts to promote common development and to address common challenges of education in the region. We welcomed the convening of the first Informal ASEAN Plus Three Education Ministers Meeting on 18 July 2011 in Bali, Indonesia, which discussed initiatives, strategies, and future direction, as well as reviewed the progress of the education cooperation under the framework of ASEAN Plus Three cooperation. We support the finalization of the ASEAN Plus Three Plan of Action on Education (2010-2017) for adoption at the Ministerial Level, and looked forward to the implementation of the said Plan of Action.
22. The ASEAN Leaders appreciated the Plus Three Leaders' interest in supporting the implementation of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity. We agreed to harness the ASEAN Plus Three extensive mechanism to enhance regional connectivity. We appreciate Thailand's initiative to develop ASEAN Plus Three Partnership on Connectivity and offer to organize a workshop to work with all ASEAN Plus Three Countries in developing this initiative.
23. We welcomed the successful holding of the "International Symposium on Exchange among Universities with Quality Assurance in East Asian Region" hosted by Japan in September 2011 and reaffirmed the importance of promoting quality assurance in higher education among ASEAN Plus Three countries. In this regard, we welcomed the progress of the "CAMPUS Asia" initiative by Japan, People's Republic of China, and Republic of Korea and their intention to promote university exchanges with ASEAN countries.
24. We emphasized the importance of enhancing cooperation to address climate change, with the sufficient financial and technological support by the developed countries, as well as cooperation in international negotiations toward a comprehensive and balanced outcome in accordance with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and mandate of the Bali Roadmap for the full, effective, and sustained implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and Kyoto Protocol.
25. We noted the Memorandum No.8 on disaster management, cultural exchange, as well as trade and investment facilitation and connectivity, prepared by the Network of East Asian Think Tanks (NEAT) on 11-12 August 2011 in Da Nang, Viet Nam. We appreciated the contribution of NEAT and encouraged relevant ASEAN Plus Three

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sectoral bodies to look into NEAT's policy recommendations. We also emphasized the need and importance of greater involvement of NEAT within the framework of the ASEAN Plus Three cooperation and with ASEAN Plus Three sectoral bodies' activities to support the visions and actions of the East Asian community building process.

26. We welcomed the successful holding of the 9th East Asia Forum (EAF) Meeting on 15-17 September 2011 in Chengdu, the People's Republic of China, with the theme of "Accelerating Regional Integration: Internal Growth Engine of East Asia". We appreciated the Republic of Korea's initiative to revitalize the EAF and took note of the concept paper on the EAF adopted at the 9th EAF Meeting.
27. We welcomed the successful first meeting of the East Asia Vision Group (EAVG) II held on 20-22 October 2011 in Seoul, Republic of Korea. In this regard, we also welcomed the Report of the Eminent Persons Group on the Establishment of the EAVG II and we looked forward to the final report of the EAVG II at the 15th ASEAN Plus Three Summit in 2012. We underscored the need for the EAVG II to hold sessions with relevant sectoral bodies and other ASEAN Plus Three-led initiatives to take stock of all previous and current activities in order to provide a comprehensive and integrated recommendation on the future direction of the ASEAN Plus Three cooperation.
28. We shared the view on the necessity to celebrate the 15th Anniversary of the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation in 2012 and to mark the 15th ASEAN Plus Three Summit as an ASEAN Plus Three Commemorative Summit.
29. We expressed our full support to Lao PDR to host the 9th Asia-Europe Summit in Vientiane in 2012.

Chairman's Statement of the 16th ASEAN Plus Three Summit

Bandar Seri Begawan, 10 October 2013

1. The 16th ASEAN Plus Three Summit, chaired by His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah, the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, was held on 10 October 2013 in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam. The Heads of State/ Government of ASEAN Member States, the People's Republic of China, Japan, and the Republic of Korea (ROK) attended the Meeting.
2. We reviewed with satisfaction the progress and achievements of the ASEAN Plus Three cooperation and agreed to continue deepening and broadening the process, as guided by the Second Joint Statement on East Asia Cooperation and the ASEAN Plus Three Leaders' Joint Statement on the Commemoration of the 15h Anniversary of the ASEAN Plus Three cooperation.
3. As ASEAN is embarking towards an ASEAN Community and an ASEAN Community's Post 2015 Vision, we acknowledged the need to deepen and enhance ASEAN's dialogue partnership and external relations.
4. We reaffirmed that the ASEAN Plus Three cooperation would serve as a main vehicle towards the long-term goal of building an East Asian community with ASEAN as the driving force. At the same time, we reiterated the importance of ASEAN's central role in the evolving regional architecture and recognised the mutually reinforcing and complementary roles of the ASEAN Plus Three and other regional processes such as the ASEAN Plus Ones, East Asia Summit (EAS), and ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) in the East Asian community building process.
5. The ASEAN Leaders also encouraged the Plus Three countries to continue to support the implementation of the Roadmap for an ASEAN Community (2009-2015) and contribute to the ASEAN Community Post-2015 Vision, as well as to the Bali Declaration on ASEAN Community in a Global Community of Nations (Bali Concord III) to bring the ASEAN Community platform on global issues into reality by 2022.
6. We adopted the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Work Plan (2013-2017) which included emerging priority areas and key measures to deepen cooperation. We looked

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forward to its timely and effective implementation over the next five years.

7. We noted with appreciation the replenishment of the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Fund and encouraged the utilisation of the fund to further implement activities under the framework of the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Work Plan (2013-2017).
8. We reaffirmed the importance of the ASEAN Plus Three cooperation in maintaining peace, security, and stability, which are indispensable conditions for development in the East Asia region. In this regard, we agreed to further strengthen political-security cooperation by enhancing mutual understanding, confidence and stability, in order to deal with emerging challenges in both traditional and non-traditional security dimensions. In this connection, we welcomed the outcomes of the 6th ASEAN Plus Three Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (AMMTC+3), 3rd ASEAN Plus People's Republic of China Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (AMMTC+China) and 1st ASEAN Plus Japan Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (AMMTC+Japan) on 18 September 2013 in Vientiane, Lao PDR.
9. We welcomed the continuing growth of intra-regional trade in the East Asia region, with total trade figures amounting to US\$712 billion in 2012 compared to US\$678 billion in 2011. This marks an increase of 5.0% in total trade, despite the uncertainties in the global economy and financial markets. Similarly, total Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) flows from the Plus Three Countries recorded an increase of 6.6% in 2012, amounting to US\$46.7 billion, and accounting for 43.6% of the total FDI flows into ASEAN. We agreed to continue strengthening regional cooperation in the areas of trade and investment facilitation, and Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) development. In this connection, we reiterated the importance of strengthening and deepening existing ASEAN Plus One Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) with the Plus Three countries and urged business communities to take full advantage of these FTAs.
10. We welcomed the progress of negotiations on the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) which would recognise ASEAN Centrality in the emerging regional economic architecture and the interests of the ASEAN Plus Three countries in supporting and contributing to economic integration, equitable economic development, and strengthening economic cooperation among the participating countries. In this regard, we looked forward to its timely conclusion by the end of 2015.
11. We welcomed the achievements of the 16th ASEAN Plus Three Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors' Meeting held in Delhi, India on 3 May 2013, including the finalisation of amendments to the Chiang Mai Initiative Multilateralisation Agreement, consensus on the draft Agreement to transform the ASEAN Plus Three Macroeconomic Research Office to an international organisation, endorsement of the work plan for

the implementation of the Asian Bond Markets Initiative New Roadmap+ and the inauguration of the guarantee transaction of the Credit Guarantee and Investment Facility.

12. We recognised the need to balance energy security with economic competitiveness and environmental sustainability and acknowledged the importance of stakeholder cooperation to study possible energy options for the region including, among others, civilian nuclear energy, oil stockpiling, and clean coal technologies, taking into account each country's national policy and circumstances, and to look into new energy cooperation areas such as the use of clean and environmentally-friendly technologies. In this connection, we welcomed the outcomes of the 10th ASEAN Plus Three Ministers on Energy Meeting in Bali, Indonesia on 25 September 2013.
13. We reaffirmed the important role of the ASEAN Plus Three Emergency Rice Reserve (APTERR) to serve as a permanent mechanism in enhancing food security in the region and at the same time, we commended its initiatives in response to acute food emergencies. We acknowledged the good progress on the implementation of the APTERR Agreement, including ratification by all APTERR parties, establishment of the APTERR Council, and launching of the APTERR Secretariat. In this relation, we welcomed the outcomes of the 13th Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry Plus Three (AMAF+3) held on 27 September 2013 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
14. We reiterated the need to further strengthen regional cooperation in the area of disaster management and reaffirmed our commitment to create a disaster resilient society in the region. We supported the full operationalisation of the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre) and the implementation of the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) Work Programme (2010-2015). In this regard, we welcomed the adoption of the ASEAN Declaration on Enhancing Cooperation in Disaster Management at the 23rd ASEAN Summit in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam on 9 October 2013.
15. We emphasised the importance of enhancing cooperation to address the issue of climate change. In this connection, we expressed our commitment to work closely together to ensure the successful outcome of the 19th Conference of the Parties (COP19) to the UNFCCC and the 9th Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties (CMP9) to the Kyoto Protocol to be held in Warsaw, Poland on 11-22 November 2013. We recognised the importance of water resources preservation and management for sustainable development. We agreed on the need for enhanced cooperation in this area with a view to preventing floods and droughts in the region which could affect

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agricultural productivity and regional food security.

16. We recognised the increasing need to facilitate closer cooperation on environment and sustainable development hence welcomed the convening of the 12th ASEAN Plus Three Environment Ministers' Meeting held in Surabaya, Indonesia on 26 September 2013. We also welcomed the proposal to hold the 2nd ASEAN Plus Three Youth Environment Forum with the theme "Youth and Sustainability" in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam in November 2013.
17. We noted implementation of the ASEAN Plus Three Plan of Action on Education (2010-2017) which would help strengthen education cooperation and human resource development in East Asia region. We also reaffirmed the need to promote quality assurance in higher education amongst the ASEAN Plus Three countries and welcomed the convening of meetings to promote mobility of higher education and quality education assurance of higher education among ASEAN Plus Three countries in Tokyo, Japan on 30 September to 1 October in 2013. We took note that the UNESCO World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development would be held in Japan in November 2014.
18. We reaffirmed our support to strengthen cooperation in addressing threats of disease outbreaks in the East Asia region and agreed to focus health cooperation on areas such as Emerging Infectious Diseases, Pandemic Preparedness and Response and Traditional Medicines in line with the ASEAN Strategic Framework on Health Development (2010-2015). At the same time, we shared the intention to cooperate on the increasing burden of non-communicable diseases and work towards the achievement of Universal Health Coverage.
19. We looked forward to the signing of the Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC) on ASEAN Plus Three Tourism Cooperation in early 2014 which would be one of the key instruments to strengthen cooperation amongst the ASEAN Plus Three countries in the tourism sector.
20. We recognised the need to raise awareness of ASEAN and to promote mutual understanding amongst the people of ASEAN Plus Three countries, hence agreed to strengthen cooperation in the information sector. We also looked forward to the successful implementation of the Work Plan on Enhancing ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Through Information and Media (2012-2017).
21. We noted the convening of the 4th ASEAN Plus Three Ministerial Meeting on Youth held in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam on 23 May 2013 and the readiness of the Plus Three countries to continue supporting and cooperating with ASEAN on youth programmes. We noted that new initiatives and programmes from the Plus Three

countries offered more opportunities for further interaction and exchange of technical know-how between the young people of ASEAN Plus Three countries.

22. We recognised the importance of realising the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) and welcomed the support of all Dialogue Partners, especially the Plus Three countries, as well as external parties and the private sector, in the implementation of the MPAC. We also looked forward to the implementation of the Leaders' Statement on ASEAN Plus Three Partnership on Connectivity which would harness the extensive mechanisms of the ASEAN Plus Three cooperation to further enhance regional connectivity.
23. We took note of the adoption of the Concept Paper on the Follow-Ups to the East Asia Vision Group II (EAVG II), by the 14th ASEAN Plus Three Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam on 30 June 2013. The Concept Paper outlined a comprehensive assessment to be taken in three phases from November 2013 to October 2014, and in this regard, we looked forward to the final report on the follow-ups to the EAVGII Report at the 17th ASEAN Plus Three Summit in Myanmar in 2014.
24. We acknowledged the important role played by the ASEAN-China Centre, ASEAN-Japan Centre, and ASEAN-ROK Centre, in promoting trade, investment, tourism, and cultural exchanges between ASEAN and the Plus Three countries. In this connection, we welcomed the suggestion for the Centres to exchange ideas and experiences in order to consolidate cooperative projects in ASEAN. We further urged for the full utilisation of the Centres in promoting trade and investment under the larger context of the ASEAN Plus Three cooperation.
25. We welcomed the 11th East Asia Forum held in Kyoto, Japan on 20-22 August 2013 under the theme "Enhancing People-to-People Connectivity: Focusing on Tourism Cooperation".
26. We noted that the 11th Network of East Asia Think-Tanks (NEAT) Annual Conference was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 27 August 2013. We welcomed the greater involvement of the NEAT within the framework of the ASEAN Plus Three cooperation and in this regard, we encouraged our officials to look into NEAT's policy recommendations.
27. We welcomed the outcomes of the G20 Summit held in St. Petersburg, Russia on 5-6 September 2013. We reiterated our support for the Chairman of ASEAN to continue to be invited to participate in the G20 Summits on a regular basis.
28. We stressed the need to maintain peace, security and stability in the Korean Peninsula, and encouraged peaceful dialogue by creating a positive atmosphere for the

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resumption of the Six-Party Talks. We reaffirmed the importance of fully complying with the obligations in all relevant United Nations Security Council (UNSC) Resolutions and commitments under the 19 September 2005 Joint Statement of the Six-Party Talks. We reiterated our support for all efforts to bring about the denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula in a peaceful manner and reaffirmed our commitments to fully implement the relevant UNSC Resolutions. We also emphasised the importance of addressing humanitarian concerns of the international community. We welcomed the Trust-building Process on the Korean Peninsula and the Initiative for Peace and Cooperation in Northeast Asia proposed by the President of the Republic of Korea.

Chairman's Statement of the 17th ASEAN Plus Three Summit

Nay Pyi Taw, 13 November 2014

1. The 17th ASEAN Plus Three Summit, chaired by the President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, H.E.U Thein Sein, was held in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar on 13 November 2014. The Summit was attended by the Heads of State/Government of ASEAN Member States, the People's Republic of China, Japan, and the Republic of Korea.
2. We expressed satisfaction with the progress on the implementation of the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Work Plan (2013-2017) and looked forward to its timely and effective implementation.
3. We underscored the importance of further intensifying and expanding the ASEAN Plus Three (APT) Cooperation for enhanced peace, security and prosperity in the East Asia region to achieve the goal of realising the ASEAN Community by 2015.
4. We reiterated that ASEAN Plus Three cooperation would remain as a main vehicle in moving forward to realise its long-term goal of an East Asia community with ASEAN as the driving force in the evolving regional architecture. We acknowledged the effective role of other ASEAN-led mechanisms in regional architecture such as the East Asia Summit (EAS), the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus (ADMM Plus) and the ASEAN Post-Ministerial Meetings with China, Japan and ROK.
5. The ASEAN Leaders encouraged the Plus Three countries to continue their support for the timely implementation of the Cha-am Hua Hin Declaration on the Roadmap for the ASEAN Community (2009-2015) and their support for the ASEAN Community's Post-2015 Vision. The ASEAN Leaders also encouraged the Plus Three countries to continue support for the 2011 Bali Declaration on ASEAN Community in a Global Community of Nations (Bali Concord III).
6. We expressed the importance of APT cooperation in maintaining and enhancing regional peace, stability and growth in the East Asia regional architecture. To this light, we shared the view to intensify the mid to long-term APT cooperation in all areas of

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political, economic and socio-cultural sectors to facilitate further development in the East Asia region.

7. We emphasized that political and security cooperation was the key to strengthening peace and stability in the East Asia region. In this regard, we renewed our commitment to deepen cooperation to address the emerging challenges of both traditional and non-traditional security matters including cyber security, maritime security, terrorism, extremism, narcotic drugs, trafficking in persons, arms smuggling, and disaster management. We also underscored the need to promote common values and norms, such as good governance, rule of law, as well as the promotion and protection of human rights, including the rights of women, children and migrant workers through policy dialogue and capacity building activities.
8. We welcomed the sustainable growth of APT economic ties even though uncertainties in the global economy remained. Total trade between ASEAN and the Plus Three Countries in 2013 increased by 1.8% year-on-year which amounted to US\$726.4 billion and which accounted for 28.99% of ASEAN's total trade. In 2013, total foreign direct investment (FDI) flows from the Plus Three countries into ASEAN reached US\$35.1 billion, accounting for 28.7% of total FDI, representing a 13.6% increase year-on-year. We remained committed to sustaining this momentum.
9. We reiterated our strong commitment to the development of SMEs in the region as a primary driving force for regional economic growth. To this light, we encouraged the business community to seize all feasible opportunities in order to gain the benefits from economic cooperation. We encouraged the boosting of existing ASEAN Plus One Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) to promote greater economic integration in the region. We therefore welcomed the launching of negotiations for upgrading the ASEAN-China FTA.
10. We welcomed the productive negotiations for the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) and looked forward to its successful and timely conclusion by the end of 2015. We expressed our belief that the RCEP would contribute significantly to economic integration and equitable economic development. We reiterated our commitment to ASEAN Centrality in the RCEP process.
11. We recalled the successful outcomes of the 17th ASEAN Plus Three Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting (AFMGM+3) held in Astana, Kazakhstan, on 3 May 2014. We welcomed the achievements of the APT Finance and Central Bank Deputies Meeting (AFCDM+3) held in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar from 2 to 3 May 2014. We also welcomed the signing of the ASEAN Plus Three Macro Research Office Agreement on 10 October 2014, which would transform it into an international organisation. We looked forward to the early ratification of the AMRO Agreement by APT countries. We

shared the view that we should promote cooperation in enhancing the Chiang Mai Initiative Multilateralisation (CMIM) and the Asian Bond Markets Initiative (ABMI).

12. We recognised the need to balance energy security with economic competitiveness and environmental sustainability. In this regard, we acknowledged the steady progress of stakeholders' cooperation on study, best practices sharing and policy works relating to energy security in the region. We stressed the increasing need to further explore new energy cooperation areas such as the use of clean and environmentally-friendly technologies. We further welcomed the outcomes of the 11th APT Ministers on Energy Meeting held in Lao PDR on 23 September 2014.
13. We recognised the importance of the ASEAN Plus Three Emergency Rice Reserve (APTERR) to serve as one of the main mechanisms for enhancing regional food security. We appreciated the prompt initiative of the APTERR in responding to the needs of victims of typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines and the floods in Lao PDR. As a way of improving efficiency of APTERR, we took note of the need to consider alternative foods in addition to rice. We agreed to continue to share technology and seek feasible ways to further strengthen the functions of APTERR and ASEAN Food Security Information System (AFSIS). To this light, we welcomed the outcomes of the 14th Meeting of the APT Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (AMAF+3) held in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar, on 24 September 2014.
14. Acknowledging the impacts of the climate change, we recognised the need to further enhance our cooperation to promote environmental conservation and sustainable development. In this connection, the Plus Three countries noted the ASEAN Environment Ministers' Statement to the 12th Meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP-2) held in Pyeongchang, ROK, from 6 to 17 October 2014, which expressed ASEAN's common understanding and commitment to actively take part in biodiversity conservation under CBD. We also looked forward to the 7th World Water Forum to be held in Daegu-Gyeongbuk, ROK, from 12 to 17 April 2015 which will serve as a platform for strengthening international cooperation on tackling water challenges. We welcomed the 13th ASEAN Plus Three Environment Ministers' Meeting held in Vientiane, Lao PDR, on 31 October 2014.
15. The Plus Three countries welcomed the ASEAN Joint Statement on Climate Change 2014 adopted at the 25th ASEAN Summit. The Statement articulated ASEAN's common position on the ongoing negotiations towards a global climate change agreement under the UNFCCC framework that is applicable to all parties.
16. With regard to socio-cultural and development cooperation, we recognised the importance of strengthening the APT Cultural Cooperation Network (APTCCN), the

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East Asia Forum (EAF), the Network of East Asian Think Tanks (NEAT) and the Network of East Asian Studies (NEAS). To this light, we endorsed NEAT Memorandum No.11 adopted at the 21st NEAT Country Coordinators' Meeting (NEAT CCM) and the 12th NEAT Annual Conference in Phnom Phenh from 28 to 30 September 2014. We noted the 3rd Meeting of the APTCCN in Singapore, from 26 to 29 August 2014 and looked forward to the holding of the 12th EAF in Bandar Seri Begawan from 25 to 27 November 2014.

17. We welcomed the 2nd APT Education Ministers' Meeting (APTEMM) held in Vientiane, Lao PDR on 12 September 2014. We also highlighted the importance of creating a strong network between universities in the East Asia region through the ASEAN+3 University Network and welcomed the successful 2nd ASEAN+3 Rectors' Conference held in Chiang Mai, Thailand, from 6 to 7 November 2014. We noted the progress of implementation of the ASEAN Plus Three Plan of Action on Education (2010-2017) in strengthening education cooperation and human resource development in the East Asia region. We also reaffirmed the need to promote mobility of higher education and ensuring quality assurance in higher education amongst the ASEAN Plus Three countries.
18. We were committed to strengthening cooperation in the area of health, particularly to address the threats of disease outbreaks in the East Asia region. We agreed to focus on health cooperation in areas such as emerging infectious diseases, pandemic preparedness and response and traditional medicines in line with the ASEAN Strategic Framework on Health Development (2010-2015). We also expressed our commitment to cooperate to reduce the burden of non-communicable diseases, work towards the achievement of universal health coverage and ensuring healthy and active aging. In this regard, we welcomed Thailand's proposal to host a special ASEAN+3 Health Ministers' Meeting on Ebola Preparedness and Response in Bangkok, Thailand, December 2014.
19. We noted the progress of ASEAN Plus Three Tourism Cooperation Work Plan through the implementation of media farm tour programme and convening of Nara Tourism Statistics Week. We also noted the outcomes of the 13th APT Tourism Ministers' Meeting held and the 24th APT National Tourism Organisations (NTOs) Meeting held in Kuching, Malaysia, on 18 and 20 January 2014, respectively and the 25th NTOs Meeting held in Kuching, Malaysia, on 17 May 2014. To enhance cooperation in the Tourism Sector among the APT countries, we looked forward to the signing of the Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC) on ASEAN Plus Three Tourism Cooperation in Myanmar in 2015.
20. We noted the holding of the 2nd APT Heads of Civil Service Meeting and the 2nd ACCSM+3 Joint Technical Working Group Meeting held in Myanmar on 26 September

2014. We took note of the progress achieved under the ACCSM+3 Work Plan (2012-2015). We were pleased to share information on national strategies and good practices in promoting good governance towards fulfilling people's aspiration and welfare. We agreed to respond to the current and emerging challenges and opportunities for the civil service sector in ASEAN Community building. We expressed continued support to the ASEAN Resource Centre (ARC) which provides training programmes for civil servants and in order to uphold the responsiveness, accountability, effectiveness and efficiency of the public service sector.

21. We realised the important role of the information sector to raise ASEAN awareness and better understanding among the people. We encouraged the effective implementation of the Work Plan on Enhancing ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation through Information and Media (2012-2017). To this light, we welcomed the 3rd APT Ministers' Meeting Responsible for Information (AMRI+3) held in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar, on 12 June 2014.
22. We welcomed the outcomes of the 8th APT Labour Ministers' Meeting held in Myanmar, on 23 May 2014 and the 6th APT Ministers Responsible for Culture and Arts Meeting held in Hue City, Viet Nam, on 20 April 2014.
23. We encouraged the Plus Three countries to continue their support for the implementation of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) and the 2012 Leaders' Statement on ASEAN Plus Three Partnership on Connectivity in order to enhance regional connectivity. We also attached importance to the support and cooperation from external parties and the private sector in the implementation of MPAC.
24. We recognised the efforts of the East Asia Vision Group II (EAVG II) in stock-taking and evaluating APT cooperation over the past 15 years to further contribute to the strengthening and deepening of the APT process. To this light, we looked forward to the submission of the final report to the Follow-up to the EAVG II Report at the 18th APT Summit in 2015.
25. We underscored the importance of strengthening international cooperation in disaster risk reduction. In this regard, we welcomed collaboration to achieve successful outcomes at the 3rd World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, to be held in Sendai, Japan, from 14 to 18 March 2015.
26. We underscored the importance of strengthening cooperation in science, technology and innovation to strengthen competitiveness and increase connectivity in the East Asia region. In this regard, we welcomed the Japan-Asia Youth Exchange Programme in Science and China's initiative to host the APT Exchange Programme for Young Scientists, to further promote the exchange of young people from ASEAN and the Plus Three countries in the field of science and technology.

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27. We took note of the importance of the ASEAN-China Centre, ASEAN-Japan Centre and ASEAN-ROK Centre in promoting trade, investment, tourism and people-to-people contacts. We further urged the full utilisation of the Centres to promote trade and investment in the larger context of the ASEAN Plus Three cooperation.
28. We welcomed the establishment of the East Asian Cultural Cities in Plus Three countries in 2014 in order to enhance people-to-people contacts in the region and looked forward to participate in the 14th Asian Art Festival in Quanzhou, Fujian province in China, in 2015.
29. We looked forward to the successful convening of the G20 Summit to be held in Brisbane, Australia from 15 to 16 November 2014. We reiterated our support for the Chairman of ASEAN to participate in the G20 Summits on a regular basis.
30. We underscored the importance of maintaining peace, security and stability in the Korean peninsula. We reaffirmed our support for all efforts on denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula in a peaceful manner and encouraged the creation of necessary conditions for the resumption of the Six-Party Talks. We expressed support for a full compliance to the obligations guided by all relevant United Nations Security Council (UNSC) Resolutions and commitments under the 19 September 2005 Joint Statement of the Six-Party Talks. We also emphasised the importance of addressing humanitarian concerns of the international community. We welcomed the reunion of separated family between the ROK and the DPRK that took place in February and expressed hope for more frequent and larger scale family reunions in future. We welcomed the Trust-building Process on the Korean Peninsula and the Northeast Asia Peace and Cooperation Initiative proposed by the President of the Republic of Korea. We also noted the recent talks between Japan and DPRK of addressing human rights and humanitarian concerns of the international community, including the abduction issue.

Chairman's Statement of the 18th ASEAN Plus Three Summit

Kuala Lumpur, 21 November 2015

OUR PEOPLE, OUR COMMUNITY, OUR VISION

1. The 18th ASEAN Plus Three Summit was chaired by the Prime Minister of Malaysia, the Honourable Dato' Sri Mohd Najib Tun Abdul Razak and was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 21 November 2015. It was attended by all Heads of State/Government of ASEAN Member States, the People's Republic of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea.
2. We noted with satisfaction the progress in ASEAN Plus Three cooperation over the past 17 years and reiterated our commitment to further intensify and expand it to include all areas of cooperation, including cross-cutting issues such as Connectivity and narrowing the development divide. We reaffirmed ASEAN Plus Three cooperation as a driving force for enhanced peace, security and prosperity in the East Asian region, with the long term goal of building an East Asia community.
3. Recalling the East Asia Vision Group (EAVG) II Report which was adopted at the ASEAN Plus Three Commemorative Summit in Phnom Penh, Cambodia on 19 November 2012 recommending the realisation of an East Asia Economic Community by 2020 as the main pillar of ASEAN Plus Three vision, we adopted the Final Report on the Follow-up to the EAVG II Recommendations which would pave the way towards greater ASEAN Plus Three integration, complementing the initiatives of the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Work Plan 2013-2017.
4. We acknowledged the importance of maintaining and enhancing peace, security and stability in the East Asian region and emphasised the need to enhance efforts to address emerging challenges in the areas of traditional and non-traditional security. Towards this end, we agreed to strengthen political-security cooperation as contained in the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Work Plan (2013-2017).
5. We welcomed the continued growth in trade and investment relations between ASEAN and the Plus Three countries. Total trade with Plus Three countries reached US\$727.1

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billion in 2014, which accounted for 28.8 per cent of total ASEAN trade, while Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflow from Plus Three Countries reached US\$26.7 billion, which amounted to 19.6 per cent in 2014. We expressed confidence that through trade and investment relations, the region would maintain its positive growth trajectory despite on-going global financial instability.

6. We acknowledged that collaboration between ASEAN and Plus Three countries remained important in ensuring the strong economic foundation in the region and underlined that the full utilisation of the ASEAN Plus One Free Trade Agreement with the People's Republic of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea respectively would contribute significantly to enhancing sustainability of the Micro, Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises in the region.
7. We recognised the important role of the private sector in enhancing economic cooperation in the East Asian region and appreciated the continuous efforts made by the East Asia Business Council (EABC) in providing private sector feedback to deepen intra-regional trade and investment and in strengthening cooperation among the private sectors in ASEAN, China, Japan and the Republic of Korea through its various initiatives and activities. We welcomed the positive outcome of the inaugural ASEAN Plus Three interface with the East Asia Business Council and looked forward to more such dialogues between ASEAN Plus Three Leaders and the Council.
8. We expressed confidence that the region's economies will remain resilient and maintain their positive trajectory despite the volatile global economic environment. Given the immense potential of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) to further regional economic integration, uphold ASEAN centrality and further improve the region's influence on the global stage, we welcomed the substantial progress achieved in all areas of negotiations and tasked our Economic Ministers to further intensify efforts towards the early conclusion of negotiations.
9. Against the backdrop of heightened volatility in the global financial market, we reaffirmed the importance of strengthening the Chiang Mai Initiative Multilateralisation (CMIM) as part of the regional financial safety net to maintain financial stability in ASEAN and East Asia. To further complement CMIM, we welcomed the transition of the ASEAN+3 Macroeconomic Research Office (AMRO) to an International Organisation, operating as an independent regional surveillance unit to monitor and analyse regional economies and support CMIM initiatives.
10. We acknowledged progress made under the Asian Bond Market Initiative (ABMI), particularly in developing efficient and liquid regional bond markets through the Credit Guarantee and Investment Facility (CGIF), the Cross-border Settlement Infrastructure

Forum (CSIF), the ASEAN+3 Multi-Currency Bond Issuance Framework (AMBIF) and the ASEAN+3 Bond Market Forum (ABMF) to help alleviate financial volatility and contribute to economic and financial stability in the East Asia region.

11. We underscored the importance of strengthening and broadening tourism cooperation in promoting people-to-people linkages in the East Asian region and looked forward to the signing of the Memorandum of Cooperation on ASEAN Plus Three Tourism Cooperation in 2016.
12. We emphasised the importance of mitigating the threat of climate change to the agriculture, fisheries and forestry sectors in East Asia. We reaffirmed the important role of the ASEAN Plus Three Emergency Rice Reserve (APTERR) Agreement as a mechanism to strengthen regional food security and reducing poverty. To further improve its efficiency, we took note of the need to consider alternative staple food crops in addition to rice. To further complement APTERR, we encouraged the development of technology and a framework to have early warning information on impending food emergencies in the region through the ASEAN Food Security Information System (AFSIS). We further welcomed the adoption of the ASEAN Plus Three Bioenergy and Food Security Framework 2015-2025 with the objective of supporting ASEAN Member States' efforts to ensure sustainable, food-secure and climate-friendly bioenergy for economic development. We also acknowledged the importance of establishing food value chains through Public-Private Partnership, and encouraged the sharing of best practices, development and exchanges of agro and agro-industry technologies, and market management to increase the value of food supply chains.
13. We recognised the need to ensure energy security in the region by promoting energy diversification through renewable energy development, energy efficiency and conservation and the use of green technology. We welcomed the enhancement and deepening of cooperation through knowledge transfer at an affordable cost in the field of renewable energy and energy efficiency. Further, we took note that clean coal, including high efficiency coal-fired power generation would contribute towards energy security and the potential reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.
14. We recognised youth as an essential asset to a nation's development and stressed the importance of continuous engagement at all levels. With over 60% of the ASEAN population today comprising those under 35 years of age, they will be the driving force in shaping the future of ASEAN. We welcomed the outcome of the ASEAN Young Leaders' Summit 2015, held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 18-20 November 2015 with the theme "Youth Driving the ASEAN Community", which was an avenue for youth from around ASEAN to build and leverage networks towards creating a cohesive ASEAN

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identity.

15. We highlighted the need to address environmental issues effectively, particularly on trans-boundary pollution and to intensify efforts to ensure sustainable development in the region. We reaffirmed our commitment to the implementation of sustainable forest management through enhancing capacity-building and the need to further strengthen cooperation and joint approaches in addressing forestry and environmental management issues.
16. The Plus Three Countries welcomed the adoption of the ASEAN Joint Statement on Climate Change at the 27th ASEAN Summit, which reaffirms ASEAN's commitment to collectively work towards addressing climate change under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). We emphasised the commitment to conclude an ambitious, durable and legally binding global climate agreement acceptable to all at the Paris Climate Conference in December 2015.
17. We reaffirmed our commitment to enhancing cooperation in education at the regional level. The Plus Three Countries welcomed the adoption of the Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Higher Education at the 27th ASEAN Summit. We noted the progress in developing the ASEAN Plus Three Guidelines on Student Exchange and Mobility.
18. We noted with satisfaction the implementation of the ASEAN Conference on Civil Service Matters Plus Three (ACCSM+3) Work Plan (2012-2015) and looked forward to the adoption of the ACCSM+3 Work Plan 2016-2020 to further promote good governance.
19. We acknowledged the important role played by the information sector to ensure that multi-flow of information is in place to raise awareness on ASEAN and in the East Asia region. Towards this end, we looked forward to the full and effective implementation of the Work Plan on Enhancing ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation through Information and Media (2012-2017).
20. We recognised the importance of Science and Technology as powerful enablers of economic development in the East Asia region and looked forward to the implementation of the ASEAN Plan of Action on Science, Technology and Innovation (APASTI) 2016-2025 with clear and effective mechanisms to further cooperation with Dialogue Partners.
21. We expressed concern over the threat of infectious diseases in the region, including the recent outbreak of the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) and encouraged the Plus Three Countries to continue supporting the Emerging Infectious Diseases (EIDs) Programme, which has engendered fruitful collaboration in the region. We acknowledged the need to pursue stronger cooperation under the ASEAN post-2015

Health Development Agenda.

22. We reaffirmed our commitment to further strengthen regional cooperation in the area of disaster management and emphasised the importance of continued support for the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Centre) and the implementation of the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER), including its post-2015 work programme.
23. We recognised the importance for ASEAN to be better connected in ensuring freer movement of people, goods, services and capital. The ASEAN Leaders appreciated the Plus Three countries' support in the implementation of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity and welcomed their support and assistance to further enhance regional connectivity. We looked forward to the conclusion of a post-2015 ASEAN Connectivity agenda which would be bold, visionary and contain concrete and feasible measures which would contribute to seamless connectivity in the East Asia region. Noting that financing mobilisation is an important factor in moving the ASEAN Connectivity agenda forward, we welcomed progress in the establishment of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank by China as well as the proposed Partnership for Quality Infrastructure by Japan to address infrastructure financing needs in the region.
24. We also recognised that regional integration and narrowing the development divide are priorities in the ASEAN community-building process and welcomed a post-2015 Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) agenda and a successor document to the IAI Work Plan II. Noting that IAI is cross-cutting in nature, we called for closer collaboration among the various ASEAN sectoral bodies in ensuring the full participation and realisation of regional commitments and initiatives.
25. We acknowledged the contribution made by Track 1.5 and Track 2 initiatives in promoting rich discussions on a wide range of issues, including the East Asia Forum (EAF), which provides a platform for think-tanks, business and academia to provide proposals for deepening East Asia regional cooperation. We further welcomed the contribution of the Network on East Asia Think-tanks (NEAT) in supporting East Asian community-building and noted with interest NEAT Memorandum No. 12.
26. We acknowledged the role played by the ASEAN-China Centre, ASEAN-Japan Centre and ASEAN-Korea Centre in promoting trade and investment, tourism and cultural exchanges. We encouraged these Centres to establish greater synergies with other establishments such as the ASEAN Business Advisory Council (ABAC), East Asia Business Council (EABC) and the Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat in promoting ASEAN in the East Asia region in the larger context of the ASEAN Plus Three

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framework.

27. The ASEAN Leaders congratulated the Leaders of the Plus Three Countries on the successful convening of the 6th Trilateral Summit, held in Seoul, the Republic of Korea on 1 November 2015 and expressed the view that the positive momentum in China-Japan-ROK trilateral cooperation would contribute to the promotion and maintenance of peace, stability and prosperity in the region.

Chairman's Statement of the 19th ASEAN Plus Three Summit

Vientiane, 7 September 2016

Turning Vision into Reality for a Dynamic ASEAN Community

1. The 19th ASEAN Plus Three (APT) Summit was held on 7 September 2016 in Vientiane. The Summit was chaired by H.E. Thongloun SISOULITH, Prime Minister of the Lao DPR. The Summit was attended by all Heads of State/Government of the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the People's Republic of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea. The Secretary-General of ASEAN was also in attendance.
2. We noted with satisfaction the progress in ASEAN Plus Three cooperation over the past 19 years and reiterated our commitment to further strengthening and deepening the APT process as a driving force for enhanced peace, security and prosperity in the East Asian region, with the long term goal of building an East Asian community. We also shared the views that APT would continue to support the implementation of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 to pave the way towards deeper regional integration in East Asia. We recognized ASEAN Centrality in the evolving regional architecture through ASEAN-led process in the ASEAN Plus Three, the East Asia Summit, the ASEAN Regional Forum, and the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP).
3. We noted with appreciation the substantive progress of the implementation of the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Work Plan (2013-2017) and the decision of the APT Ministers' Meeting in July 2016 to task Committee of Permanent Representatives and Ambassadors of the Plus Three countries to ASEAN in Jakarta (CPR Plus Three) to formulate a successor Work Plan. We looked forward to the adoption of the successor Work Plan in 2017.
4. We commended the efforts and work carried out by the CPR Plus Three, sectoral bodies and relevant stakeholders in following up to the recommendations of the East Asia Vision Group (EAVG) II, which suggested the realization of an East Asia Economic Community by 2020. We noted with appreciation the Progress Report on the Status of

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- Action Plans for Recommendations of the EAVG II, which outlined substantive progress in the development and implementation of the 21 selected EAVG II recommendations.
5. We stressed the importance of APT cooperation in maintaining and promoting peace, stability and development in East Asian region. In this context, we decided to further strengthen cooperation in both traditional and non-traditional security issues such as terrorism and violent extremism, transnational crime, cyber security, maritime security, climate change, disaster management, sustainable water resource management, food security, energy security, and pandemic diseases and trade-related capacity building.
 6. We noted that the trade and investment relations between ASEAN and the Plus Three Countries remain strong. In 2015, ASEAN total trade with the Plus Three Countries amounted to USD708.6 billion, accounting for 31.1 per cent of ASEAN's total trade. Total Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) flows from the Plus Three Countries to ASEAN stood at USD31 billion in 2015, accounting for 26.0 per cent of the total FDI inflow to ASEAN.
 7. We noted the continuous endeavour in advancing the progress of the RCEP negotiations. Considering the immense potential of the RCEP to stimulate global trade and growth, we urged RCEP participating countries to intensify efforts toward achieving a modern, comprehensive, high-quality, and mutually beneficial economic partnership agreement.
 8. We acknowledged the efforts made by the East Asia Business Council (EABC) in promoting economic integration in the region through private sector engagement, including the survey report on optimal regional free trade agreement (FTA) formation in East Asia by Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) and the Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (JCCI), MSME capacity building and facilitating e-commerce development in East Asia. We noted the importance of continuous business engagements including conducting appropriate studies. We also welcomed the collaboration among the EABC, ASEAN-China Centre, ASEAN-Japan Centre, and ASEAN-Korea Centre to broaden the cooperation in the context of ASEAN Plus Three in order to increase trade and investment.
 9. We acknowledged the outcomes of the 19th ASEAN+3 Finance Ministers' and Central Bank Governors' Meeting to further strengthen the Chiang Mai Initiative Multilateralisation (CMIM) as an essential part of the regional financial safety net and to study how the CMIM can be better integrated with the global financial safety net.
 10. We welcomed the establishment of ASEAN+3 Macroeconomic Research Office (AMRO) as an international organisation on 9 February 2016 to enhance its function as the independent regional surveillance unit and further contribute towards the

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macroeconomic and financial stability of the ASEAN+3 region by operating as an independent regional surveillance unit and supporting CMIM implementation.

11. We were pleased to note the finalization of the New Medium-Term Road Map of the Asian Bond Markets Initiatives (ABMI) for the next three years, which is expected to continue fostering the development of local currency bond markets in order to promote financial stability and meet the long-term investment needs of the region.
12. We welcomed the signing of the Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC) on ASEAN Plus Three Tourism Cooperation, which serves as the key instrument for more action-oriented cooperation, encouraging APT countries to enhance facilitation of travel and tourist visits, development of quality tourism and strengthening linkages and cooperation among education and training institutions. We noted that the MOC would be implemented through conducting joint projects, programmes and activities.
13. We appreciated the progress made under ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (AMAF) Plus Three cooperation in the area of agriculture, fisheries, livestock and forestry sectors. We noted that Thailand has granted the ASEAN Plus Three Emergency Rice Reserve APTERR Secretariat legal personality and privileges to support its role in enhancing food security. We also welcomed the progress made under the (APTERR) and the ASEAN Food Security Information System (AFSIS). We appreciated the assistances for establishing Real Time ASEAN+3 Food Security Information Network and Developing Human Resources provided by the ROK. We reiterated the importance to implement activities under the ASEAN Plus Three Bioenergy and Food Security Framework 2015-2025.
14. We acknowledged the progress of the APT on energy cooperation and appreciated the continued support offered by the Plus Three countries towards the development of an effective energy security policies, specifically in the areas of energy efficiency and conservation, renewable energy technologies, emergency response mechanisms, and capacity building initiatives for civilian nuclear energy programme, and welcomed the program proposed by China to enhance capacity building on clean energy with ASEAN Member States. We also welcomed the plans to cooperate in developing customized energy safety management systems for ASEAN Member States to ensure energy safety policy and effective accident related management in the region and in this regard, we welcomed the new initiative extended by the ROK on Improving Energy Safety Management System for ASEAN Member.
15. We were pleased to note that the implementation of various initiatives of the ASEAN Plus Three Centre for the Gifted in Science (ACGS) continues to be sustained with successful conduct of the 7th ASEAN Plus Three Teacher Workshop and Student Camp,

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and the 5th ASEAN Plus Three Junior Science Odyssey.

16. The ASEAN Leaders appreciated the Plus Three countries' support for enhancing connectivity within ASEAN and the region, and looked forward to their continued support for the implementation of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity 2025. Noting the importance of both financing mobilisation and quality infrastructure in moving the ASEAN Connectivity agenda forward, we welcomed the progress of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) as well as Expanded Partnership for Quality Infrastructure to address infrastructure-financing needs and to promote quality infrastructure investment in the region.
17. We reaffirmed our commitment to advancing the complementarity between the implementation of UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 to uplift the living standards of people in ASEAN and the Plus Three countries over the next decades. In this regard, we adopted the APT Leaders' Statement on Promoting Sustainable Development Cooperation.
18. We recognised the growing trend of ageing populations in the region and the need to address the challenges promoting the quality of life and well-being of older people in a holistic manner and through partnership with relevant stakeholders, we therefore adopted the APT Statement on Active Ageing to promote enhanced cooperation to achieve this goal.
19. We reaffirmed the need to promote quality assurance in higher education amongst the ASEAN Plus Three countries and welcomed the approval of the ASEAN Plus Three Guidelines on Student Exchange and Mobility with the aim of promoting the development of higher education in the ASEAN Plus Three countries through greater promotion of student exchanges and mobility supported by quality assurance mechanisms.
20. We acknowledged that the ASEAN Post 2015 Health Development Agenda for 2016 to 2020 included the priority areas of collaboration with the Plus Three Countries on the areas of universal health coverage, non-communicable diseases, traditional medicine, active ageing, human resource development in health, and responding to communicable and emerging health threats.
21. We noted the successful convening of the 9th ASEAN Plus Three Labour Ministers Meeting (ALMM+3) on 16 May 2016 in Vientiane, Lao PDR and supported the conclusion of the joint statements. We reaffirmed our commitment to continuing cooperation and encouraged closer collaboration on ASEAN's new priorities and projects laid out in the ASEAN Labour Ministers' Work Programme 2016-2020. We looked forward to the implementation of the Action Plan on Strategic Programmes to

Produce Qualified, Competent and Well-Equipped Labour Force to implement the East Asia Vision Group (EAVG) II recommendations.

22. We expressed the importance of the ASEAN Conference on Civil Service Matters Plus Three (ACCSM Plus Three) cooperation in strengthening capacity of civil service. We noted the successful completion of the Study Visit to the Plus Three Countries on Productivity and Innovation Focusing on Performance Management. We looked forward to the commencement of the Study Visit to the Plus Three Countries on Public Administration and Human Resource Management in October 2016 in China. We underscored the commitment to continuing our cooperation on civil service and we looked forward to the official adoption of the ACCSM Plus Three Work Plan 2016-2020 at the upcoming 3rd Heads of Civil Service Meeting for ACCSM Plus Three in November 2016 in Manila, the Philippines.
23. We noted with satisfaction the progress made in cooperation on social welfare and development, particularly in promoting the welfare of older persons through exchanges and learning of good practices from one another on community-based services for older persons and enhancing age-friendly policy and programme environment. We looked forward to continuing our partnership on enhancing the welfare of older persons, and broadening the areas of cooperation to include the promotion of the welfare of persons with disabilities and other areas of mutual interest, as guided by the goals embodied in the Strategic Framework on Social Welfare and Development 2016-2020.
24. We noted the progress in our cooperation on promoting rural development through platforms that provided opportunities between leaders in our rural communities. We welcomed the progress made by China, Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar in implementing the East Asia Poverty Reduction Initiative, which has positively contributed to narrowing the development gap among regional countries. We looked forward to continuing the efforts to enhance such exchanges, as well as to expand our partnership in areas of mutual interest such as achieving food security and agriculture development, promoting the resilience of rural communities from the adverse impacts of climate change, and exploring suitable adaptive measures, as guided by the goals reflected in the Framework Action Plan on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication 2016-2020.
25. We acknowledged the important contribution of the East Asia Forum (EAF) as a Track 1.5 level platform for government, business, academia and think tanks to contribute to deepening East Asia cooperation. We noted the outcome of the 14th EAF in Siem Reap, Cambodia on 9-10 June 2016 with the theme "Deepening East Asia Integration towards East Asia Economic Community" and welcomed China's proposal to host the 15th EAF in 2017.

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26. We recognised the contribution of the Network of East Asia Think-Tanks (NEAT) in realising the shared vision of building an East Asian Economic Community and welcomed the successful convening of the 24th Country Coordinator Meeting (CCM) of NEAT in March 2016 and the 25th NEAT CCM/14th Annual Conference under the theme of "Crisis Management" in Thailand. We also noted NEAT Memorandum No. 13 submitted for further consideration by relevant agencies.
27. The ASEAN Leaders noted the explanation by the Plus three countries side that the 8th Trilateral Foreign Ministers' Meeting was successfully held in Tokyo, Japan on 24 August 2016 and expressed the view that the positive momentum in the trilateral cooperation would contribute to the promotion and maintenance of peace, stability and prosperity in the region, and lead to the next Trilateral Summit which is to be held in Japan.
28. We discussed the developments on the Korean Peninsula and underlined the importance of maintaining peace, stability and security in the region. We expressed serious concerns over the recent developments on the Korean Peninsula, including the nuclear test and launches using ballistic missile technology by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), which are in violation of the relevant United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolutions. We highlighted the importance of trust-building activities on the Peninsula, and the need to fully comply with all relevant UNSC resolutions, including UNSC resolution 2270 and for all parties to comply with commitments under the 19 September 2005 Joint Statement of the Six-Party Talks. We underlined the importance of creating necessary conditions for the early resumption of the Six-Party Talks, which would help pave the way toward peaceful denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula.
29. We noted that next year is the 20th anniversary of APT and looked forward to having commemorative activities to celebrate the anniversary.

Chairman's Statement of the 20th ASEAN Plus Three Commemorative Summit

Manila, 14 November 2017

"PARTNERING FOR CHANGE, ENGAGING THE WORLD"

1. The 20th ASEAN Plus Three (APT) Commemorative Summit was held on 14 November 2017 in Manila, Philippines. The Summit was chaired by H.E. Rodrigo Roa Duterte, President of the Republic of the Philippines. The Summit was attended by all Heads of State/Government of the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the People's Republic of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea. The Secretary General of ASEAN and the Secretary General of the Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat were also in attendance.
2. We noted with satisfaction the progress in APT cooperation over the past 20 years and discussed its future direction. To this effect, we issued the Manila Declaration on the 20th Anniversary of APT Cooperation. We reaffirmed our commitment to further strengthening and deepening the APT process which plays a key role in regional community building efforts with ASEAN as the driving force.
3. We reaffirmed our strong support for ASEAN's central role in the existing regional mechanisms and in the evolving regional architecture. We recognized the mutually reinforcing and complementary roles of the APT process to such regional fora as the East Asia Summit and the ASEAN Regional Forum. We also shared the views that the APT would continue to support the implementation of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 to pave the way towards deeper regional integration in East Asia.
4. We noted the substantial progress on the implementation of the APT Cooperation Work Plan (2013-2017), and welcomed the adoption by the APT Foreign Ministers of the successor APT Cooperation Work Plan (2018-2022) during the 18th APT Foreign Ministers Meeting on 7 August 2017 in Manila.
5. We commended the efforts and work carried out by the CPR Plus Three (CPR+3) Ambassadors' Meeting, sectoral bodies and relevant stakeholders in following up to the selected recommendations of the East Asia Vision Group (EAVG) II, including the

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vision of realizing an East Asia Economic Community (EAEC) by 2020, with the ASEAN Plus Three as the main vehicle to achieve this goal. We emphasized the significance of the common goal of East Asia Economic Community of the APT and agreed to promote further the building process on the occasion of the 20th Anniversary of the APT. We noted the proposals of China including the development of an East Asia Economic Community blueprint.

6. We acknowledged the importance of the APT in maintaining and enhancing peace, stability and development in the East Asian region. In this context, we shared the view that we would further deepen and strengthen political and security dialogue and cooperation in both traditional and non-traditional security issues as contained in the APT Cooperation Work Plan 2018-2022.
7. We commended the progress of cooperation among the ASEAN Plus Three member countries and the role of the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Fund that helps fulfill common effort for mutual benefit. To maintain this positive momentum, we looked forward to the complete replenishment of the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Fund in accordance with the Terms of Reference of the APTCF.
8. We emphasized the need to pursue an open trading system for the region that would allow sustainable growth of trade and investments. We welcomed the strong trade and investment relations between ASEAN and the Plus Three Countries. In 2016, total merchandise trade between ASEAN and the Plus Three Countries amounted to USD694.2 billion or 31 per cent of ASEAN's total merchandise trade. Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) flows from the Plus Three Countries into ASEAN was valued at USD27.1 billion, accounting for 27.6 per cent of the total FDI inflow to ASEAN.
9. We reaffirmed our commitment to continuing cooperation on economic issues and encouraged closer collaboration on ASEAN's new priorities and projects through the adopted APT Economic Cooperation Work Programme 2017-2018, covering areas such as connectivity, micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) development, trade facilitation, and e-commerce. The Work Programme reinforces the foundation for enhanced economic relations, through sustained dialogue and consultations and technical cooperation activities between ASEAN and the Plus Three countries.
10. We noted the progress made by our joint efforts in advancing the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) negotiations. In view of the large potential of the RCEP to promote global trade and growth, we urged RCEP Participating Countries to exercise their best endeavor to swiftly and successfully achieve a modern, comprehensive, high-quality and mutually-beneficial RCEP agreement.
11. We recognized the important role of the private sector in enhancing economic

cooperation in the East Asian region and noted the efforts made by the East Asia Business Council (EABC) in supporting Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) to capture and maximize the opportunities offered by digital trade, to find new ways of doing business, to facilitate MSMEs' participation, and to participate in stakeholder engagement in the course of RCEP negotiations. We acknowledged the importance of continuous business engagements including through the conduct of relevant research studies. We also welcomed the collaboration among the EABC, ASEAN-China Centre, ASEAN-Japan Centre, and ASEAN-Korea Centre to extend the reach of cooperation in the context of the APT in order to increase trade and investment.

12. In setting long-term goals of regional integration, we noted the proposal to study the next phase of East Asia Vision Group III to include a focus on the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR).
13. We acknowledged the outcomes of the 20th APT Finance Ministers' and Central Bank Governors' Meeting (AFMGM+3) to strengthen regional financial cooperation, through the operationalisation of: the Chiang Mai Initiative Multilateralisation (CMIM) as an essential part of the regional financial safety net; the APT Macroeconomic Research Office (AMRO) as the regional macroeconomic and financial surveillance unit; the Asian Bond Markets Initiative (ABMI) for developing local currency bond markets across the region; and the agreement on the "Yokohama Vision," as guiding principles for a more resilient and integrated APT. We welcomed the deepened engagement with the IMF to further strengthen the global financial safety net, the revision of the CMIM Operational Guidelines to clarify the activation process of the IMF De-linked and Linked Portion of the CMIM. We stressed the importance of continuing to boost economic and financial system resilience as the region seeks to overcome structural challenges and build stronger foundations for growth, while reaffirming our commitment to remain open to international trade and investments and to integrate into the global economy.
14. We looked forward to the development of the APT Tourism Cooperation Work Plan 2018-2020 as the successor to the APT Tourism Cooperation Work Plan 2013-2017 and as a key instrument to translate the Memorandum of Cooperation on APT Tourism Cooperation into action to enhance facilitation of travel and tourist visits, development of quality tourism and strengthening linkages and cooperation among education and training institutions. We welcomed the convening of the ASEAN Plus Three Tourism Youth Summit 2017 co-organised by the Philippines, Japan and Thailand.
15. We adopted the APT Leaders' Statement on Food Security Cooperation and reaffirmed our commitment to work together to ensure food security, food safety, better nutrition and equitable distribution, as well as to promote sustainable development in the

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- region. We look forward to its implementation, including through sharing of know-how and promoting capacity building on food production, and providing scholarships on agriculture.
16. We noted the adoption of the APT Cooperation Strategy on Food, Agriculture and Forestry (APTCS) 2016 – 2025 during the 17th Meeting of the AMAF+3 on 29 September 2017 as a component towards the realization of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and to advance APT collaboration in the priority areas of agriculture, fisheries, livestock and forestry sectors. We welcomed the complementarity and progress made under the APT Emergency Rice Reserve (APTERR) and the ASEAN Food Security Information System (AFSIS). Noting that the assurance of food security in APT is the common goal, we encouraged all APTERR Parties to expedite the commencement of the Tier 1 Programme to address the challenge of food availability. In 2016, the implementation of Tier 3 Programme APTERR was completed with the distribution of the total amount of 450 metric tons of rice.
 17. We acknowledged the progress of the APT on energy cooperation and appreciated the continued support offered by the Plus Three countries towards the development of energy security. We welcomed the outcome of the 14th APT Ministers on Energy Meeting (AMEM+3) on 28 September 2017, Pasay City, Philippines, which recognized the importance of developing high-quality and resilient energy infrastructure, bearing in mind the lifecycle costs, environmental impacts and safety aspects of projects, including the new initiative, ASEAN+3 Clean Energy Policy Roundtable Dialogue by China as the 4th Forum of the SOME+3 EPGG Work Programme.
 18. We noted the continued growth of cooperation on environmental issues, particularly in addressing issues relating to environmental protection and sustainable development. We welcomed the ASEAN-Japan Environmental Cooperation Initiative which aims to advance environmental cooperation in areas including climate change, waste management, biodiversity conservation, chemical pollution management, wastewater management, and quality environmental infrastructure development for sustainable cities, as well as cooperation in SDGs through collaboration with ERIA.
 19. We were pleased to note that the implementation of various initiatives of the APT Centre for the Gifted in Science (ACGS) continue to be sustained, with the successful conduct of the 8th APT Student Camp & Teacher Workshop on 15-20 January 2017 in Beijing, the 6th APT Junior Odyssey held in Ha Noi on 10-15 July 2017 and the awarding of the Da Vinci Award and Scholarship on 19 October 2017 in Nay Pyi Taw.
 20. We recognized the importance for ASEAN to be better connected in ensuring freer movement of people, goods, services and capital. The ASEAN Leaders appreciated

the Plus Three countries' support in the implementation of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) 2025 and welcomed their assistance in enhancing regional connectivity to benefit the East Asian region as a whole. We welcomed the convening of the ASEAN Plus Three Symposium on Promoting Regional Connectivity on 29 September 2017 in Bangkok as an implementation of the EAVG II recommendation No. 1 on "Promote regional connectivity in East Asia" as well as the continued contribution of the ASEAN-Korea Center for its organization of the annual ASEAN Connectivity Forum to facilitate business opportunities and enhance Public-Private Partnerships in connectivity projects and its hosting of the 5th ASEAN Connectivity Forum on 29-30 November 2017 in Seoul.

21. Recognizing the importance of both financing mobilization and quality infrastructure in moving the ASEAN Connectivity agenda forward, we noted the progress of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), Belt and Road Initiative, and the Expanded Partnership for Quality Infrastructure to address infrastructure-financing needs and to promote quality infrastructure investment in the region.
22. We reaffirmed our commitment to advancing the complementarity between the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and implementation of UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to uplift the living standards of people in ASEAN and the Plus Three countries over the next decades during the course of ASEAN Community building process.
23. We acknowledged the continued APT cooperation on the promotion and protection of cultural heritage as exemplified by the successful implementation of the Workshop on Disaster Risk Management for Cultural Heritage Sites in ASEAN Plus Three Countries on 22-27 October 2017 in Bagan, Myanmar and China's hosting of the 11th ASEAN Plus Three Workshop on Cooperation for Cultural Human Resource Development that will be held on 15-25 November 2017.
24. We noted with satisfaction the completion of the ASEAN Plus Three Plan of Action on Education 2010-2017 and committed to further deepen cooperation on education with the development and launch of a new eight-year plan of action on education in 2018 to complement the ASEAN Work Plan on Education 2016-2020. In pursuing this, we encouraged greater involvement of relevant universities and educational institutions in the APT countries to support education collaboration through technical expertise, networking, and research.
25. We reaffirmed the need to promote student mobility and quality assurance in higher education amongst APT Countries and welcomed the approval of the ASEAN Plus

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Three Guidelines on Student Exchange and Mobility with the aim of promoting the development of higher education in the APT Countries through greater promotion of student exchanges and mobility supported by quality assurance mechanisms. We also appreciated the efforts and significant outputs of the ASEAN Plus Three Working Group on Mobility and Quality Assurance of Higher Education, and encouraged its expanded role and involvement in the development and implementation of the ASEAN Plus Three Plan of Action on Education 2018-2025.

26. We encouraged all ASEAN Plus Three efforts and cooperation on youth development to find synergy in the five priority areas of the ASEAN Work Plan on Youth 2016-2020 including youth entrepreneurship, youth employability, awareness raising towards appreciation of the ASEAN Community, youth volunteerism and leadership, as well as youth resilience and competencies in advanced technological and managerial skills. We looked forward to the development of city level exchanges between ASEAN Cities of Culture and East Asian Cultural Cities based on "Kyoto Declaration 2017" adopted at the Japan-China-ROK Culture Ministers' Meeting in August.
27. We acknowledged that the ASEAN Plus Three Health Cooperation has been aligned with the Health Priorities of the ASEAN Post 2015 Health Development Agenda for 2016-2020. We also supported the Joint Statement issued during the 7th ASEAN Plus Three Health Ministers Meeting on 7 September 2017 in Brunei Darussalam which underscored the priority areas of collaboration for 2017-2018 on Universal Health Coverage (UHC), Information-Communication-Technology (ICT) for healthcare, prevention and control of non-communicable diseases, enhancing traditional and complementary medicine, promoting active ageing, development of human resources for health, responding to all hazards and emerging health threats and enhancing food safety. We noted other issues prioritised for collaboration such as Antimicrobial Resistance, Ending All Forms of Malnutrition and Disaster Health Management. We looked forward to the progress of regional activities under the ASEAN Plus Three Health Cooperation that will complement bilateral and regional cooperation on ageing-related challenges in the ASEAN. We also looked forward to have further discussions on the Asia Health and Wellbeing Initiative (AHWIN) initiated by Japan in cooperation with Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA).
28. We reaffirmed our commitment to continuing cooperation on labor issues and encouraged closer collaboration on ASEAN's new priorities and projects laid out in the ASEAN Labour Ministers' Work Programme 2016-2020, as well as sharing good practices and experiences on employment services and explored ways to further improve service delivery.

29. We were pleased with the implementation of various ASEAN Plus Three initiatives on labour issues, including the successful convening of the ASEAN+3 Belt and Road Conference on Employment Services on 24-26 July 2017 in China; the 14th and 15th ASEAN-Japan High Level Officials Meeting on Caring Societies on 9-11 November 2016 and on 31 October – 2 November 2017 in Japan; and the 7th and 8th Regional Seminar on Industrial Relations on 14-15 September 2016 in Japan and on 8-9 November 2017 in Viet Nam and the 5th ASEAN+3 Human Resources Development Forum on 7-9 November in ROK. We also looked forward to the implementation of the Conference on Sharing Best Practices on Harnessing Industry Involvement in Development of Higher Level Qualifications and Seminar on Migrant Workers' Contribution to an East Asia Economic Community to implement the East Asia Vision Group (EAVG) II recommendations.
30. We recognised the importance of civil service in driving national and regional progress and welcomed the continued ACCSM+3 cooperation to strengthen civil service that is effective, efficient, transparent and accountable. We acknowledged the progress of the implementation of the ACCSM+3 Work Plan 2016-2020 adopted by the 3rd Heads of Civil Service Meeting for the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation on Civil Service Matters on 17 November 2016 in Manila, Philippines. We noted with satisfaction the completion of the Study Visits for ASEAN Member States on Public Administration and Human Resources Management on 9-15 October 2016 in China and on 28 August – 1 September 2017 in Japan and looked forward to the Study Visit to ROK in 2018. We further welcomed the Workshop on Freer Flow of Workforce Movement in ASEAN Member States held in Thailand from 6-7 July 2017, the Workshop of Talent Management for Senior Executive Services held in Indonesia from 1 to 4 August 2017 and the Workshop on Building ASEAN Civil Service Competency Platform and Performance Management System held in Cambodia from 4 to 7 September 2017. We also welcomed the development of the draft ASEAN Civil Service Talent Management Model and the publication of Book on Productivity and Innovation Focusing on Performance Management in Plus Three Countries.
31. We noted with satisfaction the progress made on social welfare and development cooperation, particularly on promoting active ageing and empowerment of older persons, promoting and protecting the rights and the welfare of persons with disabilities, advancing the welfare of children, and strengthening social protection utilising the SOMSWD+3 platform. We looked forward to continuing our partnership on enhancing social welfare, as guided by the goals embodied in the Strategic Framework on Social Welfare and Development 2016-2020. In particular, we encouraged cooperation on the

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development of a regional plan of action to implement the Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Ageing: Empowering Older Persons in ASEAN, the implementation of the Regional Plan of Action on the Elimination of Violence Against Children (RPA-EVAC), and Regional Framework and Action Plan to Implement the ASEAN Declaration on Strengthening Social Protection.

32. We noted the progress in our cooperation on rural development and poverty eradication. We looked forward to continuing exchanges and expanding our partnership in areas of mutual interest such as achieving food security and rural development, promoting the resilience of rural communities from the adverse impacts of climate change, disasters, and other shocks, and exploring suitable adaptive measures, including social protection and building human capacities, as guided by the goals reflected in the Framework Action Plan on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication 2016-2020.
33. We shared the view to maximize the potentials of the ASEAN-Japan Centre, the ASEAN-Korea Centre and the ASEAN-China Centre in promoting trade, investment, tourism, education and people-to-people and cultural exchanges between ASEAN and the individual Plus Three countries.
34. We acknowledged the contribution made by Track 1.5 and Track 2 initiatives in promoting rich discussions on a wide range of issues, including the East Asia Forum (EAF), which provides a platform for government, business, academia and think tanks to provide proposals for deepening East Asia regional cooperation. We noted the outcome of the 15th EAF held in Changsha, Hunan, China, on 30 June 2017, with the theme "20 Years of APT Cooperation: Towards the East Asia Economic Community". We also welcomed the contribution of the Network on East Asia Think-tanks (NEAT) and the successful convening of the 26th and 27th NEAT Country Coordinators Meetings (CCM) and the 15th NEAT Annual Conference (AC) under the theme of "ASEAN at 50 and APT at 20: The Role of Track 2 in building an East Asia Community" in Korea. We also noted NEAT Memorandum No.14 submitted for further consideration by relevant officials.
35. We noted that strengthening mutually beneficial cooperation amongst the Plus Three countries and with ASEAN, upholding ASEAN centrality and enhancing ASEAN connectivity, would contribute to peace, stability and prosperity in East Asia. In this regard, the ASEAN Leaders expressed the view that a positive momentum in China-Japan-ROK trilateral cooperation would contribute to the promotion and maintenance of peace, stability and prosperity in the region.
36. We noted that a sustainable framework for multilateral cooperation could contribute

to alleviating the tension and fostering peace in East Asia and welcomed the Korean government's efforts to develop such a framework in Northeast Asia. In this regard, we shared the view to further strengthen dialogue and cooperation by utilizing ASEAN-led mechanisms, including the framework of ASEAN Plus Three Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (AMMTC+3) Consultation, in addressing common security issues such as terrorism and violent extremism, transnational crimes and threats, and cyber security, as well as enhance maritime cooperation in accordance with the principles of international law.

37. Serious concern was expressed over the escalation of tensions in the Korean Peninsula, while some condemned the ongoing development of nuclear weapons and ballistic missile technologies by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), which is in contravention of United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolutions and which threaten regional and international peace and stability. In this regard, we strongly urged the DPRK to immediately comply fully with its obligations under all relevant UNSC resolutions. This would be an important step for returning to serious denuclearisation dialogue.
38. We committed to working closely together on the implementation of UNSC resolutions and relevant non-proliferation cooperation. We reaffirmed the importance of peace and security in the region and reiterated support for the complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula in a peaceful manner. We also emphasized the importance of addressing humanitarian concerns of the international community, including the abductions issue.
39. We expressed support for initiatives to improve inter-Korean relations toward establishing permanent peace in the Korean Peninsula. We also shared the view that the upcoming Pyeongchang Winter Olympic Games could serve as a useful occasion to promote peace and stability in the Korean Peninsula.

Chairman's Statement of the 21st ASEAN Plus Three Summit

Singapore, 15 November 2018

1. The 21st ASEAN Plus Three (APT) Summit was held in Singapore on 15 November 2018. The Meeting was chaired by H.E. Lee Hsien Loong, Prime Minister of the Republic of Singapore, and attended by all Heads of State/Government of ASEAN Member States, the People's Republic of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea (ROK). The Secretaries-General of ASEAN and the Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat were also in attendance.
2. We noted with satisfaction the substantive progress in APT cooperation and reiterated our commitment to further strengthen and deepen functional cooperation under the APT process. The APT plays a key role in regional community-building efforts in East Asia, with ASEAN as the driving force.
3. We reaffirmed the importance of ASEAN Centrality in the evolving regional architecture and its ASEAN-led frameworks, including the APT. We recognised the mutually reinforcing and complementary nature of the APT framework with other regional fora such as the East Asia Summit and the ASEAN Regional Forum. We also shared the view that the APT should continue to support the implementation of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025, in order to achieve deeper regional integration in East Asia.
4. We welcomed the successful convening of the 7th Trilateral Summit among China, Japan and the ROK in Japan in May 2018. We acknowledged the vital role of trilateral cooperation in enhancing mutual trust, and boosting win-win functional cooperation in the region, thereby providing opportunities for a more robust APT cooperation process.

Review and Future Direction of APT Cooperation

5. We noted with satisfaction the progress in the implementation of the APT Cooperation Work Plan 2018-2022, and looked forward to the timely and effective implementation of all measures under the Work Plan to enhance APT cooperation over the next four years. We also underscored the importance of the effective utilisation and prudent management of the APT Cooperation Fund to implement activities under the Work

Plan. In this connection, we expressed appreciation to all APT countries for their contribution to the replenishment of the Fund to support cooperation projects. We recalled the East Asia Vision Group (EAVG) II Report, including its recommendation to realise an East Asia Economic community (EAEC). We noted a suggestion for our Economic Ministers to explore the vision. We were pleased with the progress in the implementation of action plans of the EAVG II selected recommendations, which would pave the way towards greater APT integration. We looked forward to further progress on the outstanding action plans to implement the EAVG II recommendations.

6. We acknowledged the importance of the APT in maintaining and enhancing peace, security, stability and development in East Asia. We agreed to deepen and strengthen political and security dialogue and cooperation to address non-traditional security issues articulated in the APT Cooperation Work Plan 2018-2022, such as trafficking in persons, cybercrime, and illicit drug trafficking. We also looked forward to enhancing cooperation in maritime security and safety, countering terrorism and violent extremism, and promoting moderation.
7. We welcomed the growing trade between ASEAN and the Plus Three countries, and emphasised the need to promote trade liberalisation in the region and ensure mutually beneficial partnerships. We reaffirmed our support for an open, inclusive, and rules-based multilateral trading system that will support regional economic integration amidst uncertainties in the global trade environment. In this regard, we welcomed the substantial progress made in the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) negotiations in 2018. We noted with satisfaction that the RCEP negotiations have advanced to the final stage, and we expressed our determination to conclude a modern, comprehensive, high quality, and mutually beneficial RCEP in 2019. We also expressed our commitment to uphold a global trade environment that is open, mutually beneficial, rules-based and inclusive through the RCEP. We also committed to contribute to the World Trade Organization (WTO) to make it more relevant and adaptive to a changing world, and strengthen its effectiveness. We encouraged constructive engagement on issues relating to e-commerce in the WTO and other relevant international fora that will promote the development of the digital economy and trade.
8. We welcomed the strong trade and investment relations between ASEAN and the Plus Three countries. In 2017, trade between ASEAN and the Plus Three countries amounted to USD813.6 billion or 31.6 per cent of ASEAN's total trade. Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) flows from the Plus Three countries into ASEAN were valued at USD29.9 billion, accounting for 21.8 per cent of total FDI inflows to ASEAN. There was

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a suggestion to explore the possibility of using an East Asian common trading currency to facilitate trade in the region.

9. We reaffirmed our commitment to enhancing economic cooperation and encouraged closer collaboration on ASEAN's priorities and projects through the APT Economic Cooperation Work Programme 2019-2020. In this connection, we also welcomed the launch of the Joint Study on "10+3 Cooperation for Improvement of Supply Chain Connectivity", which would be a useful reference in deepening cooperation on supply chains among APT countries, facilitating regional trade, promoting investment and overall international competitiveness, and supporting economic development.
10. We welcomed the efforts of the ASEAN-China Centre, ASEAN-Japan Centre and ASEAN-Korea Centre to promote trade, investment, tourism and education, the integration and development of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in the region, as well as people-to-people and cultural exchanges between ASEAN and the Plus Three countries.
11. We recognised the important role of the private sector in enhancing economic cooperation in East Asia. We commended the East Asia Business Council's work in providing private sector inputs to the RCEP negotiations, organising activities to enhance the capacity of MSMEs, and conducting a survey on business awareness on new technologies and their market environments, which was supported by the Japan External Trade Organization, and included contributions by other institutions such as the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade and the Korea International Trade Association.
12. We also recognised the potential presented by the ongoing digital revolution to improve the region's competitiveness and the livelihood of its people, while underscoring the need to prepare for its associated challenges. To this end, we called for greater APT cooperation to support the concrete application of technologies and smart solutions in our daily lives, such as through information and communications technology (ICT), e-commerce and smart cities. We also welcomed the establishment of the ASEAN Smart Cities Network (ASCN), and the ASEAN Leaders' adoption of a framework for smart city development in the region. We commended the ASCN cities for developing action plans with concrete projects that will improve their peoples' lives, and looked forward to forging mutually beneficial partnerships between the Plus Three countries and the network as it evolves over the coming years. We noted China's proposal to host an APT Young Scientists Forum in 2019.
13. We reaffirmed our commitment to safeguard the financial stability of the region amidst external risks and financial market volatility. We stressed the importance of

strengthening financial system resilience as the region seeks to overcome structural challenges and build stronger foundations for economic growth. In this regard, we looked forward to the continued enhancement of the region's financial safety net, with the Chiang Mai Initiative Multilateralisation (CMIM) at its centre. We welcomed the continued commitment by the APT Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors to strengthen the CMIM with the general agreement on the main contents of the first CMIM Periodic Review.

14. We noted with satisfaction the enhanced capacity of the APT Macroeconomic Research Office (AMRO) in macroeconomic surveillance and CMIM support. We encouraged AMRO to continue closely monitoring the regional financial situation, and to provide timely and high quality policy advice to help regional members manage various economic risks and vulnerabilities. We welcomed the conclusion of the Memoranda of Understanding between AMRO and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), between AMRO and the European Stability Mechanism (ESM), and between AMRO and the Asian Development Bank (ADB), all of which would deepen AMRO's partnerships with global financial institutions. We commended AMRO on becoming a Permanent Observer to the United Nations General Assembly, which would further broaden AMRO's engagement with other countries and international organisations. We noted AMRO's policy note titled "ASEAN Plus Three and External Risks: Sustaining Growth Through Cooperation", which provided a helpful overview of recent macroeconomic trends and possible policy responses.
15. We acknowledged the Asian Bond Markets Initiative (ABMI)'s significant contributions in developing local currency bond markets and facilitating regional financial integration. We welcomed the completion of the ADB's study on promoting local currency-denominated green bonds for infrastructure development, the approved increase of the Credit Guarantee and Investment Facility (CGIF)'s authorised capital from USD700 million to USD1.2 billion, and the General Principles for participation of non-APT countries as observers in the APT Bond Market Forum. We also welcomed the agreement to establish a regional catastrophe risk insurance pool for Lao PDR and Myanmar as the first product of the Southeast Asia Disaster Risk Insurance Facility (SEADRIF), with support from Japan, Singapore and the World Bank.
16. We underscored the need to continue implementing the nine strategic areas of cooperation under the APT Cooperation Strategy on Food, Agriculture and Forestry (APTCS) 2016-2025, including knowledge sharing, technology transfer and investment promotion to further deepen regional collaboration. We underlined the important role of the APT Emergency Rice Reserve (APTERR) Agreement as a mechanism

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to strengthen regional food security. In this regard, we welcomed the signing of the Protocol to amend the APTERR Agreement to extend annual contributions to the operational cost of APTERR for a further five-year period (2018-2022) and for the APTERR Council to decide on the annual contribution of APT countries to the operational cost for the subsequent five-year periods after 2022. We also welcomed the signing of the Memorandum of Cooperation for the Tier 1 implementation between Japan and the Philippines as the first trial for APTERR.

17. We were pleased to note the implementation of various initiatives of the APT Centre for the Gifted in Science (ACGS), including the 11th ACGS Board of Directors Meeting in the ROK on 23 November 2017, the 9th APT Student Camp and Teacher Workshop in the ROK from 5 to 12 January 2018, and the 7th APT Junior Science Odyssey in Malaysia from 29 July to 4 August 2018.
18. We were pleased to note the progress in the implementation of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) 2025 and looked forward to the continued support of APT countries, particularly in the development of sustainable and quality infrastructure in accordance with international standards. We underscored the importance of exploring links and synergies between MPAC 2025 and the Plus Three countries' connectivity strategies at the appropriate time.
19. We acknowledged the efforts made to implement the priority areas of APT health cooperation, which includes universal health coverage, utilising ICT for healthcare, non-communicable diseases, traditional and complementary medicine, active ageing, human resources for health, responding to communicable and emerging health threats and food safety, as well as issues related to antimicrobial resistance, ending all forms of malnutrition, and disaster health management. Recognising that antimicrobial resistance affects healthcare systems and adversely impacts global economies, we adopted the APT Leaders' Statement on Cooperation against Antimicrobial Resistance. We noted Japan's expansion of the target areas under the Asia Health and Wellbeing Initiative. We welcomed ASEAN's effort to establish the ASEAN Centre for Active Ageing and Innovation in Thailand in 2019.
20. We called for the development of collaborative projects to protect and conserve the environment, promote sustainable use of natural resources, address the impact of climate change and the issue of marine plastic debris, and forge closer cooperation on poverty alleviation. In this regard, we welcomed the APT Marine Plastic Debris Cooperative Action Initiative to enhance cooperation on combatting marine plastic debris. We reaffirmed our commitment to advancing complementarities between the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

to improve the living standards of people in the APT countries. We also recognised the importance of APT cooperation in supporting ASEAN's implementation of the ASEAN Plan of Action for Energy Cooperation 2016-2025.

21. We expressed support for Singapore's designation of 2018 as the Year of Climate Action. We welcomed Singapore's successful convening of the Special ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Climate Action (SAMCA) and the Expanded SAMCA (E-SAMCA) on 10 July 2018, where ASEAN and the Plus Three countries exchanged views on their respective climate action plans, reaffirmed their commitment to the Paris Agreement, and discussed ways to increase regional action to address climate change. We welcomed the submission of the Chair's Summary of the SAMCA and E-SAMCA by Singapore as input to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) 2018 Talanoa Dialogue. We also welcomed the outcomes of the ASEAN Climate Change Partnership Conference, organised under the ambit of the ASEAN Working Group on Climate Change, that was held in the Philippines on 26 June 2018 to promote multi-stakeholder and cross-sectoral collaboration in addressing climate change among ASEAN Member States, relevant sectoral bodies, and Dialogue Partners. We also noted the ASEAN-Japan Climate Change Action Agenda proposed by Japan at the E-SAMCA.
22. We commended the efforts of the APT Senior Officials Meeting on Youth to engage youth from APT countries and establish effective communication through various annual youth exchanges and community immersions. We also noted with satisfaction that at the 4th APT Education Ministers Meeting, which was held on the sidelines of the 10th ASEAN Education Ministers Meeting in Nay Pyi Taw from 29 October to 1 November 2018, the Ministers welcomed the progress in developing the APT Plan of Action on Education 2018-2025, made at a workshop held in Tokyo in October 2018.
23. We reaffirmed the need for the greater promotion of student mobility with quality assurance, and welcomed the approval of the APT Guidelines on Transcripts and Supplemental Documents for Academic Records of Exchange Students by the 4th APT Education Ministers Meeting, with the aim of facilitating smooth recognition of exchange students' academic records abroad, and thus promoting student exchanges supported by quality assurance mechanisms.
24. We noted the convening of the "Seminar on Migrant Workers' Contribution to an East Asia Economic Community" in Siem Reap, Cambodia from 6 to 7 April 2018 to address the challenges faced by migrant workers in East Asia. We also noted the Conference on Sharing Best Practices on Harnessing Industry Involvement in Development of Higher Level Qualifications held in Manila, the Philippines from 7 to 8 November 2018

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as part of the implementation of the EAVG II recommendations. We also underscored the importance of continued cooperation on various aspects relating to labour, including emerging issues associated with the Future of Work and green jobs.

25. We noted the progress in the implementation of the APT Cooperation on Civil Service Matters (ACCSM Plus Three) Work Plan 2016-2020. We welcomed initiatives supported by the APT Cooperation Fund that sought to strengthen the overall capabilities of the ASEAN Civil Services, including the Study Visit Programme on Public and Human Resources Management to the ROK from 2 to 6 April 2018, and the 6th APT Human Resource Development Forum in Jeju Island, ROK from 13 to 14 November 2018. We noted the successful convening of the Heads of Civil Service Meeting for the 4th ACCSM Plus Three in Singapore on 25 October 2018, preceded by the ACCSM Plus Three Senior Officials' Meeting and the ACCSM Plus Three Forum on Good Governance, with the theme "Public Service Reform Transformation", on 23 and 24 October 2018 respectively.
26. We commended the work accomplished under the Work Plan on Enhancing APT Cooperation on Culture 2013-2017. We welcomed the adoption of the new Work Plan for 2019-2021 at the 8th Meeting of APT Ministers Responsible for Culture and Arts in Yogyakarta, Indonesia on 24 October 2018, and looked forward to the effective implementation of the new Work Plan to further enhance inter-cultural exchanges and understanding. In this regard, we welcomed the establishment of the APT Network of Culture Cities to develop city-level exchanges among the Culture Cities of East Asia and ASEAN City of Culture. We also welcomed the designation of the ASEAN Cultural Year 2019 at the 8th Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers Responsible for Culture and Arts and encouraged all ASEAN Member States and external partners to carry out cultural events during the ASEAN Cultural Year 2019.
27. On the information sector, we welcomed the adoption of the Work Plan on Enhancing APT Cooperation through Information and Media 2018-2023, which outlined future cooperation in the areas of human resource development, media networking and new media, during the 5th Conference of APT Ministers Responsible for Information in Singapore on 10 May 2018.
28. We acknowledged the important contribution of the East Asia Forum (EAF) to further deepen Track 1.5 cooperation in East Asia. We noted the outcomes of the 16th EAF held in Luang Prabang, Lao PDR from 29 to 30 August 2018, with the theme "Promoting Sustainable Development and Prosperity in East Asia". We recognised the contributions of the Network of East Asian Think-Tanks (NEAT), and the successful convening of the 28th NEAT Country Coordinators Meeting (CCM) on 8 May 2018, as

well as the 29th NEAT CCM and 16th NEAT Annual Conference from 17 to 18 September 2018 in Yangon, Myanmar. We also noted NEAT Memorandum No.15.

29. We noted the successful convening of the 13th Annual Meeting of Deans and Directors of Diplomatic Training Institutions of APT countries held in China from 23 to 25 May 2018, with the theme "Innovation in Diplomatic Training: New Challenges, New Methods, New Modes". We also noted the Meeting's decision to hold a joint training course on crisis management in 2019, in conjunction with the 14th Annual Meeting for APT Young Diplomats, that will build knowledge and enhance cooperation through the sharing of best practices.
30. We underscored the importance of strengthening cross-pillar cooperation in other areas such as tourism, energy security, minerals, disaster management and emergency response, ending all forms of malnutrition, active ageing, protection and promotion of the rights and welfare of children, the elderly and persons with disabilities, social protection, gender equality and empowerment of women and girls, and rural development and poverty eradication.

Regional and International Issues

31. We welcomed the Inter-Korean Summits held on 27 April 2018, 26 May 2018 and from 18 to 20 September 2018, as well as the Singapore Summit between the United States (US) and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) on 12 June 2018. We also welcomed the Panmunjom Declaration and the Pyongyang Joint Declaration signed between President Moon Jae-in of the ROK and Chairman of the State Affairs Commission of the DPRK Kim Jong Un, as well as the Joint Statement signed between US President Donald J Trump and Chairman Kim.
32. We urged all concerned parties to continue working towards the realisation of lasting peace and stability on a denuclearised Korean Peninsula, including through the full and expeditious implementation of the Panmunjom Declaration, the Pyongyang Joint Declaration and the Joint Statement by the US and DPRK leaders. We also called on the DPRK to fulfill its stated commitment to complete denuclearisation and its pledge to refrain from further nuclear and missile tests. We reiterated our commitment to the full implementation of all relevant United Nations Security Council Resolutions and noted international efforts to bring about complete denuclearisation. Some Leaders emphasised the importance of addressing issues of humanitarian concerns of the international community, including the resolution of the abductions issue.

Chairman's Statement of the 22nd ASEAN Plus Three Summit

Bangkok/Nonthaburi, 4 November 2019

1. The 22nd ASEAN Plus Three (APT) Summit was held on 4 November 2019 in Bangkok. The Meeting was chaired by His Excellency General Prayut Chan-o-cha (Ret.), Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand, and attended by all Heads of State/Government of ASEAN Member States, the People's Republic of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea (ROK). The Secretaries-General of ASEAN and the Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat were also in attendance.

Review and Future Direction of APT Cooperation

2. We noted with satisfaction the substantive progress in APT cooperation and reiterated our commitment to further strengthening and deepening the APT functional cooperation under the APT process. We underscored the importance of the APT in East Asia cooperation towards the long-term goal of building an East Asia community, with ASEAN as the driving force.
3. We reaffirmed the importance of ASEAN centrality in the evolving regional architecture and ASEAN-led frameworks, including the APT. We recognised the mutually reinforcing and complementary nature of the APT with other ASEAN-led mechanisms such as the East Asia Summit, the ASEAN Regional Forum, and ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus (ADMM-Plus). We also shared the view that in order to achieve deeper regional integration in Asia, the APT's continuing support on the implementation of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and its Blueprints, the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) 2025 and the Initiative of ASEAN Integration (IAI) Work Plan III is crucial.
4. We were pleased to note the steady progress in the implementation of the APT Cooperation Work Plan (2018-2022). To maintain this positive momentum, we called for more projects and activities with concrete outcomes to further implement the action lines in APT cooperation over the next three years. In this regard, we noted the Second Progress Report on the Implementation of the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Work

Plan (2018- 2022). We also underscored the importance of the effective utilisation and prudent management of the APT Cooperation Fund to implement activities under the Work Plan.

5. We recalled the East Asia Vision Group (EAVG) II report, including its recommendations to realise an East Asia Economic Community (EAEC), and we looked forward to the substantive progress of the implementation of projects and activities under the EAVG action plans.
6. We acknowledged the importance of the APT in maintaining and enhancing peace, security, stability and development in East Asia. We decided to strengthen dialogue and cooperation to address non-traditional security issues articulated in the APT Cooperation Work Plan 2018-2022, such as trafficking in persons, cybercrime, countering terrorism and violent extremism and illicit drug trafficking. We also looked forward to enhancing maritime cooperation including capacity development on the maritime industry.
7. We noted the global outlook in economic and trade performance and the recent moderation of growth. While noting that trade continues to expand between ASEAN and the Plus Three countries, we cautioned against rising trade tensions and its impact on growth and jobs. We reaffirmed strong commitment to upholding an open, inclusive, transparent, non-discriminatory and rules-based multilateral trading system as embodied in the World Trade Organization (WTO) and noted the work being undertaken to reform the WTO and reiterated their full support to this endeavor. We also reaffirmed our support for enhanced regional economic integration. We welcomed that 15 Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Participating Countries have concluded text-based negotiations to create a modern, comprehensive, high quality and mutually beneficial RCEP Agreement and would work together on outstanding issues with a view to signing the agreement in 2020. We acknowledged the importance of promoting sustainable development of micro, small, medium enterprises (MSMEs) in light of uncertainties in the global economy.
8. We welcomed the strong trade and investment relations between ASEAN and the Plus Three countries. In 2018, trade between ASEAN and the Plus Three countries increased by 6.8 percent to USD869.1 billion or 31.0 percent of ASEAN's total merchandise trade. Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) flows from the Plus Three countries into ASEAN were valued at USD37.9 billion in 2018, accounting for 24.5 per cent of total FDI inflows to ASEAN which increased by 9.9 percent from the previous year.
9. We commended the efforts of the ASEAN-China Centre, ASEAN-Japan Centre and ASEAN-Korea Centre to promote economic and socio-cultural exchanges between

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ASEAN and the Plus Three countries. We were pleased to note that the three Centres established regular consultations with their counterparts and called for the Centres to enhance linkages among themselves by exploring possible joint projects in areas of common interest.

10. We recognised the important role of the private sector in enhancing economic cooperation in East Asia. We noted the strong interest of members of the East Asia Business Council (EABC) on the progress of RCEP negotiations, and its recommendations for improving trade facilitation and supply chain connectivity in the region to ensure smooth implementation of the RCEP. We noted with appreciation the EABC's work in organising activities to enhance the capacity of MSMEs, and in conducting studies on business awareness on new technologies and their markets. We reaffirmed their continuing support for future initiatives aimed at preparing MSMEs for the advent of the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR).
11. We acknowledged the Joint Ministerial Statement of the 16th APT Ministers on Energy Meeting on 5 September 2019 in Bangkok. We encouraged the enhancement of energy cooperation and market integration among APT countries towards achieving energy security, accessibility, affordability and sustainability for the region. We noted with satisfaction the continued cooperation among APT countries to develop capacities on renewable energy and energy efficiency and conservation. We welcomed the commitment to deeper knowledge and information exchange through various initiatives such as the Cleaner Energy Future Initiative for ASEAN (CEFIA) to accelerate the development of cleaner energy in ASEAN region.
12. We also recognised the potential brought about by the ongoing digital revolution to improve the region's competitiveness and the livelihood of its people, while underscoring the need to prepare for its associated risks and challenges. To this end, we called for greater APT cooperation to support the concrete application of technologies and smart solutions in our daily lives, such as through information and communications technology (ICT), e-commerce and development of smart cities. Following the establishment of the ASEAN Smart Cities Network (ASCN) last year, we welcomed the progress in the implementation of ASCN cities' action plans and smart city projects. We looked forward to forging mutually beneficial partnerships between the Plus Three countries and the network.
13. Given that this year marks the 20th anniversary of the APT finance process, we commend the accomplishments made in fostering closer regional financial cooperation towards a more resilient, inclusive and integrated APT region. We welcomed the adoption of a vision document, "Strategic Directions of APT Finance Process,"

which aims to explore new potential areas of common interest and complementarity towards the strategic directions of fostering regional economic growth and promoting integration, while continuing the work on current initiatives to maintain regional economic and financial stability from a longer-term perspective. We also welcomed the continued commitment of APT Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors to strengthening the Chiang Mai Initiative Multilateralisation (CMIM), the Regional Financing Arrangement (RFA), as an effective and timely self-help mechanism, and a strong and reliable layer in the Global Financial Safety Net. We welcomed the approval of the amended CMIM Agreement and the endorsement of the General Guidance on Local Currency Contribution to the CMIM by the 22nd APT Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting. We looked forward to the early entry into force of the amended CMIM Agreement approved in May 2019. We welcomed the completion of the 10th CMIM Test Run using actual fund, encouraged the drafting of the CMIM Operational Guideline and Technical Guidance for the CMIM Conditionality Framework.

14. We are also pleased to note the continuous progress made by the APT Macroeconomic Research Office (AMRO) in enhancing its surveillance capacity, frameworks and other analytical tools. In particular, we commend AMRO's efforts to stay at the forefront of macroeconomic trends and to assist with the early identification of risks and vulnerabilities. This has enabled AMRO to provide timely policy advice to members to mitigate the possible spillover effects. We noted with appreciation AMRO's Policy Note, titled "ASEAN+3 Region: Sustaining Growth and Stability amid Mounting Global Uncertainty," which has provided a helpful overview on recent macroeconomic developments and policy responses.
15. We acknowledged the Asian Bond Markets Initiative (ABMI)'s significant contributions in fostering the development of local currency bond markets and facilitating regional financial integration to mitigate currency and maturity mismatches and in mobilising the region's savings to finance long-term investment across the region. We welcomed the endorsement of a new ABMI Mid-Term Road Map 2019-2022, highlighting future directions and major activities. We also support the timely work of the Southeast Asia Disaster Risk Insurance Facility (SEADRIF) to strengthen the financial resilience of ASEAN Member States against climate and disaster risks.
16. We commended contributions by the members to meet the Capital Increase Proposal (CIP) of the Credit Guarantee and Investment Facility (CGIF) and encourage timely completion of CIP according to schedule. We also commended the CGIF's efforts in exploring the innovative proposal of Infrastructure Investors Partnership (IIP) to further promote local currency debt finance for infrastructure. We also encourage efforts to

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promote local currency-denominated green bonds to meet the region's infrastructure needs in a sustainable manner.

17. We were pleased to note the progress in the implementation of the APT Cooperation Strategy on Food, Agriculture and Forestry (2016-2025), in which various activities have been carried out in the areas of food security, sustainable forest management, and climate change mitigation and adaptation. We reaffirmed our commitment to continuously supporting the implementation of APT Emergency Rice Reserve (APTERR) Agreement for meeting emergency requirements and humanitarian relief through the Protocol to amend the APTERR Agreement which extended annual contributions to the operational cost of APTERR for further a five-year period (2018-2022), that was signed on 12 October 2018 in Ha Noi, Viet Nam.
18. We noted with satisfaction the continued cooperation among APT countries in science and technology through various initiatives of the APT Centre for the Gifted in Science (ACGS), including the 10th APT Teacher Workshop for the Gifted in Science, the 12th ACGS Board of Directors (BOD) Meeting, and the 8th APT Junior Science Odyssey (APT JSO), as well as the APT Young Scientist Innovation Forum.
19. We were pleased with the significant progress, and looked forward to the support of APT countries to advance the implementation of MPAC 2025, which covers the strategies on Sustainable Infrastructure, Digital Innovation, Seamless Logistics, Regulatory Excellence, and People Mobility as well as to strengthen APT cooperation in enhancing regional connectivity. We stressed the importance of developing links and synergies between MPAC 2025 and key connectivity initiatives in the region, while reaffirming the need to promote sustainable, high quality infrastructure in line with broadly accepted international principles to facilitate trade, investment and service competitiveness in the region. In this regard, we adopted the APT Leaders' Statement on Connecting the Connectivities Initiative.
20. We underscored that cultural exchanges are a key to promoting people-to-people ties in the region. In this regard, we looked forward to the effective implementation of the APT Work Plan on Cooperation in Culture and Arts (2019-2021) to further enhance inter-cultural exchanges and understanding. We also welcomed the establishment of the Network of APT Culture Cities and the Yangzhou Initiative on Building the Network of ASEAN Plus Three Culture Cities to promote city-level exchanges among the East Asian Cultural Cities and the ASEAN City of Culture. We are pleased to note the cultural events held in Viva ASEAN-ASEAN Cultural Roadshow: Oneness to the World' performances in four different cities in the ROK in cooperation with the ASEAN Culture House of the Korea Foundation, as part of the celebrations of the ASEAN Cultural Year

2019. We also looked forward to the tour of ASEAN Cultural troupes and exhibitions in Japan and China to further bring ASEAN cultures to wider audiences.

21. We acknowledged the Joint Statement of the 8th APT Health Ministers Meeting on 30 August 2019 in Siem Reap, Cambodia with the theme "Accelerating Health for All in ASEAN." Commitments made included priority areas of collaboration on capacity building on prevention, detection and response to public health threats; combating anti-microbial resistance; addressing non-communicable diseases and its risk factors; ending all forms of malnutrition; strengthening traditional and complementary medicine; ensuring food safety; promoting healthy and active ageing; and, achieving universal health coverage including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services, and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all. We noted the multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder collaborative activities to be implemented in promoting healthy and active ageing and welcomed the establishment of the ASEAN Centre for Active Ageing and Innovation (ACAI) in Thailand. We also welcomed Japan's expansion of the target areas under the Asia Health and Wellbeing Initiative (AHWIN). We underscored the need to strengthen cooperation in promoting active ageing in light of the ongoing development of the Regional Plan of Action to implement the Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Ageing: Empowering Older Persons in ASEAN, led by the Senior Officials Meeting on Social Welfare and Development (SOMSWD).
22. We committed to advancing cooperation in promoting sustainable development, as well as in strengthening cooperation with all stakeholders, including the private sector, to achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). We noted the successful convening of the 16th APT Environment Ministers Meeting held on 9 October 2019 in Cambodia. In order to cover the finance needs to achieve the SDGs, we recognised that international public and private finance for development as well as other innovative financing mechanisms can play an important role. We noted the convening of the APT Youth Environment Forum (AYEF) on 8-13 September 2019 in Phuket, Thailand. We reaffirmed our support for empowering the youth and their communities in taking responsive and sustainable actions to address marine debris pollution.
23. We supported the finalisation of the ASEAN Action Plan developed with the World Health Organization (WHO) in combatting substandard and falsified medicines by strengthening national regulatory mechanisms; coordination and collaboration on the sustained implementation on the prevention, detection and response to eliminate substandard and falsified medicines within countries and across the region, among

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others; and, building and maintaining an efficient robust supply system which will contribute to ensuring that populations within the region especially in remote areas of ASEAN Member States (AMS) have access to safe, effective, affordable and quality medicines.

24. We called for development of collaborative projects to protect and conserve the environment and biodiversity, to promote sustainable use as well as the fair and equitable sharing of benefits from the utilisation of natural resources, including water resource management, and to address the impact of climate change and the issue of marine plastic debris. We welcomed the progress of "APT Marine Plastic Debris Cooperative Action Initiative," such as the establishment of Regional Knowledge Centre for Marine Plastic Debris operated by the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) and capacity development for monitoring of the debris and combat measures, and looked forward to supporting the expeditious implementation of the Bangkok Declaration on Combating Marine Debris in ASEAN Region, implementation of the ASEAN Framework of Action on Marine Debris and the ASEAN Centre for Sustainable Development Studies and Dialogue. We appreciated the Osaka Blue Ocean Vision which aims to reduce additional pollution by marine plastic litter to zero by 2050 and its implementation framework.
25. We reaffirmed our commitment to forging closer cooperation to alleviate poverty for sustainable development, to promote and to protect the human rights of vulnerable groups, and to achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women. We welcomed the adoption of the ASEAN Enabling Masterplan 2025: Mainstreaming the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and looked forward to its implementation.
26. We reiterated the need to create an enabling environment and instruments for student mobility with quality assurance among the APT countries. In this regard, we looked forward to the continued implementation of the APT Guidelines on Transcripts and Supplemental Documents for Academic Records of Exchange Students, which was adopted by the APT Education Ministers in November 2018. We also noted the: (i) adoption of the APT Plan of Action on Education 2018-2025 by the APT Education Ministers and its subsequent implementation; and (ii) successful convening of the 7th Meeting of the Working Group on Student Mobility and Quality Assurance of Higher Education among APT Countries in September 2019 in Singapore.
27. We noted the successful convening of the 7th APT Ministerial Meeting on Youth (AMMY+3) held on 19 July 2019 in Vientiane, with the theme "Enhancing the Role of Youth in ASEAN for Sustainable Development and Regional Integration". We supported the commitment of ASEAN Youth Ministers to further strengthening APT collaborations

- on youth development to address the challenges of Industry 4.0, digitalisation and the evolving demand of the labour market and noted with satisfaction the contribution of youth empowerment activities and people-to-people exchange programmes among APT countries. We looked forward to the development of the Plan of Action for APT Cooperation on Youth in line with the APT Cooperation Work Plan 2018-2022.
28. We commended the continued cooperation among APT countries in areas of human resources development and social security. We supported the commitment of the 10th APT Labour Ministers' Meeting (ALMM+3) held in November 2018 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia to promoting green jobs and green skills that will contribute towards environmentally and socially sustainable economy of the region. We also noted the ASEAN Labour Ministers' Joint Statement on Green Initiative to the 108th International Labour Conference and encouraged the collaboration and sharing of information and experiences among the APT countries in order to prepare and protect the workforces and businesses in the context of technological advancement, demographic transition and rise of green economy.
 29. We welcomed the progress of implementation of the APT Cooperation on Civil Service Matters (ACCSM+3) Work Plan 2016-2020. We looked forward to the development of the ASEAN Guidelines on Public Service Delivery and the Baseline Study on Governance Systems among APT countries that are supported by the APT Cooperation Fund. We were pleased to note the convening of the ACCSM+3 Focal Points Meeting in June 2019 in Bangkok, which served as a platform for APT countries to jointly begin the preparation for the ACCSM+3 Work Plan 2021-2025 in the spirit of mutual interests.
 30. The Leaders acknowledged the success of the 14th Annual Meeting of Deans and Directors of Diplomatic Training Institutions of ASEAN Plus Three, organised by the Diplomatic Academy of Viet Nam in Ha Noi from 23-25 October 2019, during which the first joint training course was successfully conducted and it was decided that a joint database on curriculum and materials for diplomatic training will be further developed. The Leaders encouraged the APT Diplomatic Training institutions to continue strengthening their substantial cooperation and network through concrete projects and activities.
 31. We noted the decision of the 7th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management (AMMDM) in October 2019 in Myanmar on ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management's (ACDM) engagement with ASEAN Dialogue Partners from China, Japan and the ROK to explore the possibility of establishing ASEAN Plus mechanisms on disaster management. We welcomed Japan's agreement to establish the AMMDM Plus Japan cooperation and looked forward to the convening of the meeting of AMMDM

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Plus Japan in the future. We encouraged the enhancement of regional cooperation on disaster management and emergency response by promoting cooperation on policy coordination, information exchanges and conducting joint exercises to effectively promote disaster management and reduce disaster risks and losses in the region.

32. We acknowledged that the East Asia Forum (EAF) remains an important Track 1.5 level platform for governments, companies, academic institutions and think-tanks to further increase cooperation within East Asia. In this regard, we welcomed the convening of the 17th EAF, hosted by Japan on 10-12 July 2019 in Odawara, Japan, under the theme "Bolstering Free and Open Economy in East Asia," and noted its outcomes. We also recognised the important contributions of the Network of East Asia Think-Tanks (NEAT) towards APT cooperation. We welcomed the outcomes of the 30th NEAT Country Coordinators Meeting (CCM) in May 2019, the 31st CCM and the 17th Annual Conference of NEAT held in August 2019. We noted the recommendations in NEAT Memorandum No.16, which advocates for socio-cultural connectivity and the establishment of smart and sustainable cities in East Asia. Cultural institutions and related networks need to be strengthened, and environmental issues, particularly on ocean plastic debris, need to be addressed.
33. We underscored the importance of forging closer cooperation in other areas such as tourism, energy, and minerals. The Ministers also encouraged the APT countries to explore closer cooperation in women empowerment and gender equality, as well as narrowing the development gap in ASEAN, including through the IAI.
34. We commended Thailand's initiative and support from other APT countries to establish the APT website. To this end, we welcomed the launch of the website, which will serve as a useful tool to provide up-to-date information on the growing number of APT activities, increase the visibility and enhance public awareness of the APT cooperation among the APT countries.

Regional and International Issues

35. We welcomed the resumption of the working-level discussion between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the United States (U.S.), as well as the initiatives by the Republic of Korea (ROK) and China to establish a sustainable dialogue process with the DPRK. We stressed the importance of continued peaceful dialogue and efforts amongst all parties concerned, supported by peaceful efforts of the international community, in order to realise lasting peace, security, and stability in a denuclearised Korean Peninsula. We urged all concerned parties to resume and continue peaceful dialogue and work together towards progress in the realisation of lasting peace,

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security, and stability in a denuclearised Korean Peninsula, including through the full and expeditious implementation of the Singapore Joint Statement by the U.S. and DPRK Leaders, the Panmunjom Declaration, and the Pyongyang Joint Declaration. We reiterated our commitment to the full implementation of all relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions and noted international efforts to bring about the complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula. We welcomed ASEAN's readiness to play a constructive role in contributing to peace and stability in the Korean Peninsula. Some Leaders emphasised the importance of addressing issues of humanitarian concerns of the international community, including the resolution of the abductions issue.

Chairman's Statement of the 23rd ASEAN Plus Three Summit

Viet Nam, 14 November 2020

1. The 23rd ASEAN Plus Three (APT) Summit was held via video conference on 14 November 2020. The Meeting was chaired by His Excellency Nguyễn Xuân Phúc, Prime Minister of the Social Republic of Viet Nam, and attended by Heads of State/ Government and High Representatives of ASEAN Member States, the People's Republic of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea (ROK). The Secretary-General of ASEAN, and Secretary-General of the Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat were also in attendance.

Review and Future Direction of APT Cooperation

2. We underscored the importance of the APT in East Asia cooperation towards the long-term goal of building an East Asia community, with ASEAN as the driving force. We noted with satisfaction the substantive progress in APT cooperation and reiterated our commitment to further strengthening and deepening APT functional cooperation under the APT process. We further underlined the mutually reinforcing and complementary nature of the APT with other ASEAN-led frameworks. We also recognised the importance of APT to ASEAN's efforts towards realising the ASEAN Community Vision 2025, the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) 2025, the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) Work Plan III (2016-2020) and Work Plan IV (2021 -2025), and deeper regional integration in East Asia.
3. We were pleased with the further strengthening of APT cooperation and commended the steady progress in the implementation of the APT Cooperation Work Plan (2018-2022). To maintain this positive momentum, we called for more projects and activities with concrete outcomes to further implement the action lines in APT cooperation over the next years. In this regard, we noted the Third Progress Report on the Implementation of the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Work Plan (2018-2022). We also underscored the importance of the effective utilisation and prudent management of the APT Cooperation Fund to implement activities under the Work Plan.

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4. We acknowledged the importance of the APT in maintaining and enhancing peace, security, stability and development in East Asia. We reaffirmed our commitment to strengthen dialogue and cooperation to combat transnational crimes and to address non-traditional security issues articulated in the APT Cooperation Work Plan 2018-2022, such as trafficking in persons, cybercrime, countering terrorism and violent extremism and illicit drug trafficking.
5. We noted the progress in the implementation of action plans for the East Asia Vision Group (EAVG) II selected recommendations which would pave the way towards greater APT cooperation. We looked forward to the implementation of the remaining projects and activities under the action plans. We welcomed Indonesia's proposal to hold the APT Student Camp and APT Seminar on East Asian Studies at Major Universities which aims to cultivate an East Asian identity through promotion of ASEAN Studies and East Asian Studies in the region until the situation allows.
6. We underscored the importance of multilateralism, regionalism and international law in contributing to global and regional peace, stability and prosperity. ASEAN Leaders reiterated the importance of the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP) as a guide for ASEAN's engagement in the wider Asia-Pacific and Indian Ocean regions, and encouraged the enhancement of APT cooperation in the four key areas of cooperation identified in the AOIP, namely maritime cooperation, connectivity, sustainable development, economic and other areas of cooperation to further promote mutual trust and confidence as well as to contribute to peace and prosperity in the region.
7. We reaffirmed the role of APT cooperation in effective control and containment of the COVID-19 pandemic as well as in mitigating its socio-economic impact on their respective countries and the region, as underlined in the Joint Statement of the Special APT Summit on COVID-19 convened via videoconference on 14 April 2020. We acknowledged the support and contribution of the Plus Three countries to ASEAN Member States, and ASEAN's initiatives in addressing COVID-19 which includes, among others, the establishment of the ASEAN Centre for Public Health Emergencies and Emerging Diseases, the COVID-19 ASEAN Response Fund and the Regional Reserve of Medical Supplies for Public Health Emergencies (RRMS). We also encouraged to enhance efforts towards setting up the APT reserve of essential medical supplies to coordinate and synergize with the RRMS.
8. We emphasised the need to strengthen APT collaboration in advancing the region's recovery from the adverse socio-economic effects of the pandemic. In this regard, we welcomed the ASEAN Plus Three Plan of Action (APT POA) on Mitigating the Economic Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic which was endorsed at the 23rd AEM Plus Three

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Consultations on 28 August 2020, to implement ASEAN Plus Three Economic Ministers' Joint Statement on Mitigating the Economic Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic adopted on 4 June 2020). We looked forward to the effective implementation of the APT POA which would bring about collaboration and coordination between ASEAN and the Plus Three countries, as well as prepare the region for future emergency situations, and achieve post pandemic economic recovery. We recognised the collaborative work of the four research institutes from APT members (CAITEC, JETRO, KIEP and ERIA) in completing the Final Joint Study on "10+3 Cooperation for Improvement of Supply Chain Connectivity" that would benefit the region and enhance ASEAN-Plus Three economic relations. In addition, we adopted the APT Leaders' Statement on Strengthening APT Cooperation for Economic and Financial Resilience in the face of Emerging Challenges to realise the commitment of the APT countries to cooperate and collaborate on overcoming the challenges brought about by COVID-19.

9. We underlined the importance of trade and investment relations between ASEAN and the Plus Three countries. In 2019, total trade between ASEAN and the Plus Three Countries in 2019 reached USD890.2 billion, representing 31.6 per cent of ASEAN's total trade. Meanwhile, total Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) flows from the Plus Three Countries into ASEAN were valued at USD32.0 billion in 2019, accounting for 19.9 per cent of total FDI inflows into ASEAN.
10. We stressed the importance of keeping the markets open, maintaining an open, free, fair, non-discriminatory and rules-based trading environment in consideration of their domestic laws and regulations, to strengthen the openness, connectedness, resiliency and sustainability of regional supply chains and maintain necessary flow of essential goods and services including food, medicines, medical and other essential supplies, including maintaining necessary interconnectedness in the region by facilitating the essential movement of people and goods for diplomatic, humanitarian, scientific and business activities. We reiterated the need for the resumption of safe and essential travels to jumpstart the region's economic recovery. We also need to identify joint activities that can be undertaken to promote business linkages among APT countries. The East Asia Business Council (EABC) that we have established could play a bigger role in this respect. We also emphasized emergency measures deemed necessary for responding to public health emergencies should be targeted, proportionate, transparent and temporary and consistent with WTO rules and not create unnecessary barriers to trade or disruption of global and regional supply chains.
11. We reaffirmed our strong commitment to upholding an open, inclusive, transparent, and rules-based multilateral trading system anchored by the World Trade Organization

(WTO). We also reaffirmed our support for enhanced regional economic integration. In this regard, we welcomed the conclusion and signing of the RCEP agreement at the 4th RCEP Summit on 15 November 2020, which demonstrated our strong commitment to supporting economic recovery, inclusive development as well as our support for an open, inclusive, rules-based trade and investment arrangement.

12. We acknowledged the key leadership role of the World Health Organization (WHO) and the fundamental role of the United Nations system in catalyzing and coordinating the comprehensive global response to the COVID-19 pandemic. We recognized the importance of following up on the resolution at the 73rd World Health Assembly in its entirety, including the Assembly's call for actions by WHO Members States, International Organizations and relevant stakeholders and the WHO Director-General.
13. We noted the successful convening of the 20th Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry Plus Three (AMAF+3), and were pleased with the progress made in the implementation of the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Strategy (APTCS) 2016-2025. We called for the enhancement of APT cooperation in ensuring food security particularly in the post-pandemic period, including through the full and effective utilization of the ASEAN Plus Three Emergency Rice Reserve (APTERR) and the ASEAN Food Security Information System (AFSIS), to overcome possible food shortages as well as strengthen the resiliency and sustainability of regional food supply chains by working closely together to ensure that markets are kept open and transportation of agricultural and food products are facilitated.
14. We affirmed our commitment to pursuing a sustainable post-pandemic economic recovery measures in the energy sector by strengthening partnership and innovation towards energy security, energy transition, and energy resilience. We acknowledged the importance of realistic and pragmatic energy policy by utilising appropriate energy sources and technologies for achieving both goals of economic growth from COVID-19 pandemic and reducing emissions of greenhouse gases. We welcome the convening of the 17th ASEAN+3 Energy Ministers' Meeting hosted by Viet Nam via videoconference in conjunction with the 38th ASEAN Ministers on Energy Meeting and Associated Meetings (38th AMEM) on 17-20 November 2020.
15. We noted the region's increased dependence on the digital economy during the pandemic. To this end, we stressed the need for the region to identify challenges and opportunities as the region's economies gird themselves for the advent of the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR), and to harness the latter as a tool to foster APT's economic recovery.
16. We stressed the need to assist people and businesses affected by the impact of

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COVID-19, especially the micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), start-ups and vulnerable groups, including through facilitating their integration into the digital economy, access to digital infrastructure and use of technologies to allow the MSMEs to maintain operations and enhance business competitiveness. We reaffirmed our continuing support for future initiatives aimed at preparing MSMEs for the advent of the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR).

17. We recognised the potentials presented by the on-going digital transformation to improve the region's long-term competitiveness and the livelihood of its people. We support the development of digital economy and innovative growth to enhance the regional resilience. We were pleased to note the progress made in advancing the ASEAN Smart Cities Network (ASCN) and ASEAN looked forward to forging partnership with the Plus Three countries to achieve smart and sustainable urban development in the region. We acknowledged the need to explore cooperation in intellectual property between ASEAN and Plus Three countries, recognizing the importance of promoting the protection of intellectual properties through cooperation, in order to contribute to the balanced growth of the region.
18. We underscored the importance of the ASEAN+3 Finance process in enhancing regional economic and financial stability. We noted the continued commitment by APT Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors to strengthening the Chiang Mai Initiative Multilateralization (CMIM), the regional financial safety net of the APT. We commended the accomplishments made in fostering closer regional financial cooperation towards a more resilient, inclusive and integrated APT region. We welcomed the amended CMIM Agreement, which came into effect on June 23, 2020 and the outcome of the APT Finance Ministers' and Central Bank Governors' Meeting held on 18 September 2020, which affirmed that they continue working together to further enhance regional economic and financial stability and to explore new initiatives in potential financial cooperation areas, including through the CMIM, the ASEAN+3 Macroeconomic Research Office (AMRO), and the Asian Bond Markets Initiative (ABMI), as well as the Strategic Directions of ASEAN+3 Finance Process. We continue to support the efforts of the Southeast Asia Disaster Risk Insurance Facility (SEADRIF) in strengthening the financial resilience of ASEAN member countries against climate and disaster risks. We encouraged the APT Inter-Bank Cooperation Mechanism (APTIBCM) to provide financing and related services to facilitate social and economic recovery in the region.
19. We commended the efforts of the ASEAN-China Centre, ASEAN-Japan Centre and ASEAN-Korea Centre to promote trade, investment, tourism, culture and people-to-

people and cultural exchanges between ASEAN and the Plus Three countries. We were pleased to note that the three Centres had established regular consultation meetings and called for the Centres to enhance linkages among them by exploring possible joint projects in areas of common interests.

20. We were pleased with the progress in implementing the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) 2025 and looked forward to forging cooperation with APT countries to advance its implementation in the strategic area of sustainable infrastructure, digital innovation, seamless logistics, regulatory excellence, and people mobility. We reiterated the importance of developing links and synergies between MPAC 2025 and key connectivity initiatives in the region as outlined in our Statement on Connecting the Connectivities Initiative that was adopted at the 22nd APT Summit in November 2019. In this regard, we noted Thailand's proposal to organise a regional seminar to explore synergy through enhanced partnership and develop recommendations to implement the Statement.
21. We noted the successful convening of the ASEAN Connectivity Coordinating Committee (ACCC) Consultations with Dialogue Partners and Other External Partners on Connectivity and the 11th ASEAN Connectivity Symposium on Enhancing ASEAN Cohesiveness, Responsiveness through Resilient Connectivity and Human Capital Development, with support from the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), on 26 August 2020 and 28 August 2020, respectively.
22. We emphasised the importance of cultural exchanges and people-to-people links to heighten awareness and foster intercultural understanding and ASEAN identity in the region. In this regard, we encouraged the development of more project initiatives under the ASEAN Plus Three Work Plan on Cooperation in Culture and Arts 2019-2021. We also looked forward to the promotion of the 10+3 Network of Culture Cities and City-Level Exchanges especially through the Network of APT Culture Cities.
23. We reaffirmed our commitment to implementing the priority areas of APT health cooperation, which includes universal health coverage, utilising ICT for healthcare, non-communicable diseases, traditional and complementary medicine, active ageing, human resources for health, responding to communicable and emerging health threats and food safety, as well as issues related to antimicrobial resistance, ending all forms of malnutrition, and disaster health management.
24. We noted the Joint Statement of the 8th APT Health Ministers Meeting on 30 August 2019 in Siem Reap, Cambodia supporting the theme of Accelerating Health for All in ASEAN. We noted the multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder collaborative activities to be undertaken in promoting healthy and active ageing as complemented by the

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establishment of the ASEAN Centre for Active Ageing and Innovation (ACAI) in Thailand. We acknowledged efforts to strengthen the healthcare and welfare system under the Asia Health and Wellbeing Initiative (AHWIN). We also noted the commitment of the APT health sector to continuing efforts on the implementation of the International Health Regulations (IHR) (2005) and the Asia Pacific Strategy for Emerging Diseases and Public Health Emergencies (APSED III) to enhance ASEAN Member States and Plus Three Countries' capacity to prevent, detect, and respond to public health threats.

25. We welcomed the commitment of the APT Health Ministers made at their meeting via video conference on 7 April 2020 to enhancing free, open, responsible, transparent and timely sharing of information, data and expertise on COVID-19 prevention, detection, control and response measures, epidemiologic surveillance updates, risk assessment results, epidemiological and clinical studies on the virus and the disease, treatment experience, including the application of traditional medicine and technical guidelines. We also recognized the importance of cooperation in development, manufacturing and distribution of diagnostics, anti-viral medicines, therapeutics and vaccines, adhering to the objectives of efficiency, safety, equal accessibility and affordability and noted the role of the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI), the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI) and the International Vaccine Institute (IVI), as well as the COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access (COVAX) Facility and Advance Market Commitment in developing and delivering vaccines. We also emphasized the importance of equitable access and distribution of affordable vaccines among APT countries, once available. We also encouraged continuing commitment, after overcoming the challenges related to COVID-19 and revitalising national health systems, on collaboration in learning from the regional and national experiences in responding to COVID-19 challenges, as well as to further strengthen and institutionalise preparedness, surveillance, prevention, detection and response mechanisms of the ASEAN and Plus Three Countries on public health emergencies and other crises.
26. We reiterated the commitment to advancing cooperation in promoting sustainable, inclusive and innovative development, as well as in strengthening cooperation with all stakeholders, including the private sector, to achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). We support ASEAN's efforts in narrowing the development gap and promoting sustainable and equitable development across the ASEAN Community including through aligning sub-regional growth with the comprehensive development of ASEAN. We reaffirmed our commitment to forge closer cooperation in poverty alleviation and welcomed the continued progress of the East Asia Poverty Reduction Cooperation Initiative, which is to implement the EAVG

II recommendation. We called for development of collaborative projects to protect and conserve the environment and biodiversity, to promote sustainable use as well as the fair and equitable sharing of benefits from the utilization of natural resources, including water resource management, and to address climate change, air pollution and marine plastic debris. In this regard, we welcomed the continuous contribution of the Plus Three countries to reduce marine debris in particular through the ASEAN Plus Three Marine Plastic Debris Cooperative Action Initiative, and collective effort towards the achievement of Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP).

27. We were encouraged by the progress of cooperation on social welfare and development through the SOMSWD+3 platform. We reaffirmed our commitment to forging ahead with the implementation of the ASEAN Regional Framework and Action Plan on Implementing the ASEAN Declaration on Strengthening Social Protection and the ASEAN Enabling Master plan 2025: Mainstreaming the Rights of Persons with Disabilities with the emphasis on strengthening social protection systems for vulnerable groups to ensure access to much needed public goods and services. We looked forward to the roll-out of the Ha Noi Declaration on Strengthening Social Work Towards Cohesive and Responsive ASEAN Community particularly the development and implementation of the declaration's regional plan of action. We likewise looked forward to the development of regional plans of action to implement Declaration on the Protection of Children from all Forms of Online Exploitation and Abuse in ASEAN, and the ASEAN Declaration on the Rights of Children in the Context of Migration.
28. We reaffirmed our commitment to promoting gender equality and empowerment of women and girls through the ACW+3 platform. We commended the continued efforts of ACW to forge ahead with gender mainstreaming efforts across the ASEAN Community Pillars and with advancing Women, Peace and Security. We looked forward to the finalization of Regional Strategic Framework on Gender Mainstreaming and the Regional Study on Women, Peace and Security in ASEAN. We shared the need on working closely to strengthen gender data and statistics for evidence-informed policy and programme.
29. We reiterated the need for an enabling environment with supporting instruments that would facilitate student mobility with quality assurance among the APT countries. In this regard, we looked forward to the continued implementation of the APT Guidelines on Transcripts and Supplemental Documents for Academic Records of Exchange Students, which was adopted by the APT Education Ministers in November 2018. We also noted the adoption of the APT Plan of Action on Education 2018-2025 by the APT Education Ministers and its ongoing implementation.

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30. We commended the efforts of the APT Ministerial Meeting on Youth in providing greater access for engagement among youth in APT countries and establishing effective communication through various annual youth exchanges and community immersions which provided an opportunity for meaningful cross-cultural understanding. We commended the commitment of ASEAN Youth Ministers to further strengthening APT collaborations on youth development with a view to addressing the challenges of Industry 4.0, digitalisation and the evolving demand of the labour market and noted with satisfaction the contribution of youth empowerment activities and people-to-people exchange programmes among APT countries. We welcomed the development of the APT Work Plan on Youth 2021-2025 to support APT initiatives in youth development. We welcomed the holding of an APT Student Camp, which would be held in 2021. The activity is the implementation of EAVG II recommendation on enhancing people-to-people connectivity in the East Asia region.
31. We commended the steady progress of implementation of the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation on Civil Service Matters (ACCSM+3) Work Plan 2016-2020 which covered areas of mutual interests including e-governance, human resource management and human resource development, productivity in public sector, good governance, public sector reform, local administration capacity building and cooperation, and research and innovation. We welcomed the development of the ACCSM+3 Work Plan 2021-2025 which would further promote good governance and support the agility of ASEAN's civil service in facing global challenges. On this note, we looked forward to the implementation of the project on Mainstreaming Gender in HR Policies, Processes and Systems and the Baseline Study on Governance Systems among APT Countries, which would be both supported by the APT Cooperation Fund. We applauded the finalisation of the ASEAN Guideline on Public Service Delivery, which was supported by the APT Cooperation Fund, and looked forward to the implementation of the Guidelines that would strengthen the capabilities of ASEAN civil service to deliver high quality public service to the people of ASEAN.
32. We noted the strengthening of the APT cooperation in the labour sector through the development of the first APT Senior Labour Officials Meeting (SLOM+3) Work Plan 2021-2025 that would cover the areas of human resources development, inclusive growth, sustainable development as a response to the ASEAN economic integration, social dialogue, and occupational safety and health in the workplace, and social protection. We looked forward to the effective implementation of the Work Plan through practical activities and projects. We appreciated the support of the Republic of Korea to the development of the ASEAN Guidelines on Gender Mainstreaming into Labour

and Employment Policies to Promote Decent Work for All and the Project on Enhancing the Competitiveness of ASEAN Human Resources through Responsive TVET Curriculum supported by Involvement of Industries and Labour Market Information. We also appreciated the support of Japan to the Study on Old-Age Income Security in ASEAN Member States and the Project on Strengthening the Quality Assurance and Competency Certification Systems through the Application of ASEAN Guiding Principles for Quality Assurance and Recognition of Competency Certification Systems within ASEAN Economies. We supported to strengthen cooperation in support for the realisation of the ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on Human Resource Development for the Changing World of Work adopted at the 36th ASEAN Summit with the view to preparing the ASEAN's workforce for the future of work.

33. We encouraged the enhancement of regional cooperation on disaster management and emergency response by promoting cooperation on policy coordination, information exchanges and conducting joint exercises to effectively promote disaster management, reduce disaster risks and losses in the region, supporting regional and sub-regional capacities in disaster management and emergency response, addressing their disruptions to the socio-economic development.
34. We acknowledged the important contribution of the East Asia Forum (EAF) as a Track 1.5 level platform for government, business, academia and think tanks to further deepen East Asia cooperation. In this regard, we welcomed the convening of the 18th EAF under the theme "Strengthening the ASEAN Plus Three cooperation for economic and financial resilience in the face of emerging challenges", to be hosted via video conference by Viet Nam on 25 November 2020.
35. We also recognised the important contributions of the Network of East Asia Think-Tanks (NEAT) towards APT cooperation. We welcomed the outcomes of NEAT meetings last year, which advocated for socio-cultural connectivity and the establishment of smart and sustainable cities in East Asia. Cultural institutions and related networks need to be strengthened.
36. We also underscored the importance of forging closer cooperation in other areas such as science, technology and innovation, tourism, media, food and energy security, and minerals. We further noted that the APT tourism sector is developing an APT Tourism Cooperation Work Plan 2021-2025 for adoption in the first quarter of 2021. In this regard, we tasked the APT tourism senior officials to develop strategic cooperation programmes, taking into account new dynamics in the industry and to explore innovative ways to revitalise the tourism sector in the post-COVID19 pandemic in collaboration with all stakeholders including the private sector. In addition, we encouraged the APT

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countries to explore closer cooperation in other areas such as supporting MSMEs, climate change, human resource development, women empowerment and gender equality, disaster management and narrowing the development gap.

Regional and International Issues

37. We underscored the importance of promoting peace, stability and cooperation for development and supported efforts in promoting dialogue, cooperation, and confidence-building, upholding the rule of law, addressing disputes and differences through consultation as well as peaceful means in accordance with international law. We recognized the efforts and achievements in advancing the peace process on the Korean Peninsula over the last three years. We stressed the importance of continued sustainable peaceful dialogue amongst all concerned parties in order to achieve peace and stability in a denuclearized Korean Peninsula. We urged all parties concerned to resume peaceful dialogue and continue working constructively towards the goals of lasting peace and stability in a denuclearized Korean Peninsula, including through the full and expeditious implementation of the Panmunjom Declaration, the Pyongyang Joint Declaration and the Joint Statement by the Leaders of the United States and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). We underscored the significance of maintaining peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula and noted the ROK's proposals to advance inter-Korean relations. We reiterated our commitment to the full implementation of all relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions. We noted the importance of international efforts to bring about the complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. We stressed the need to promote a conducive atmosphere to peaceful dialogue among the concerned partners, including through utilizing ASEAN-led platforms. We noted views expressed by some Leaders on the importance of addressing issues of humanitarian concerns of the international community, including the resolution of the abductions issues.

Chairman's Statement of the 24th ASEAN Plus Three Summit

Brunei Darussalam, 27 October 2021

1. The 24th ASEAN Plus Three (APT) Summit was held via video conference on 27 October 2021. The Summit was chaired by His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.

Review and Future Direction of APT Cooperation

2. We underscored the importance of the APT in East Asia cooperation towards the long-term goal of building an East Asia community, with ASEAN as the driving force. We noted the substantive progress in APT cooperation and reiterated our commitment to further strengthening, broadening and deepening APT functional cooperation under the APT process. We further underlined the mutually reinforcing and complementary nature of the APT with other ASEAN-led frameworks. We also recognised the importance of the APT to ASEAN's efforts towards realising the ASEAN Community Vision 2025, the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) 2025, the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) Work Plan IV (2021-2025), and deeper regional integration in East Asia.
3. We were pleased with the further strengthening of APT cooperation and commended the substantive progress in the implementation of the APT Cooperation Work Plan (2018-2022). We looked forward to the continued effective implementation of the Work Plan through more concrete activities and projects to further enhance APT cooperation, and noted with appreciation the Fourth Progress Report on the Implementation of the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Work Plan (2018-2022). We looked forward to the development of the successor APT Cooperation Work Plan for 2023-2027 and its adoption in 2022. We also underscored the importance of the effective utilisation and prudent management of the APT Cooperation Fund to implement activities under the Work Plan.
4. We acknowledged the significance of the APT in maintaining and enhancing peace, security, stability and development in East Asia. We reaffirmed our commitment to strengthen dialogue and cooperation in combatting transnational crimes and addressing

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non-traditional security issues, such as trafficking in persons, cybercrime, countering terrorism and violent extremism and illicit drug trafficking.

5. We underscored the importance of multilateralism, regionalism and international law in contributing to global and regional peace, stability and prosperity. ASEAN reiterated the value of the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP) as a guide for ASEAN's engagement in the wider Asia-Pacific and Indian Ocean regions, and encouraged the enhancement and promotion of APT cooperation in ASEAN priority areas identified in the AOIP, namely maritime cooperation, connectivity, sustainable development, economic and other areas of cooperation to further promote mutual trust, mutual respect, and confidence as well as to contribute to peace and prosperity in the region.
6. We reaffirmed the crucial role of APT cooperation in combating the COVID-19 pandemic in the region and mitigating its socio-economic impacts. We acknowledged the support and contribution of the Plus Three countries to ASEAN Member States, and ASEAN's initiatives in addressing COVID-19 which includes, among others, the establishment of the ASEAN Centre for Public Health Emergencies and Emerging Diseases (ACPHEED), the COVID-19 ASEAN Response Fund, the ASEAN Regional Reserve of Medical Supplies for Public Health Emergencies (RRMS), the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework (ACRF) and its Implementation Plan, and the ASEAN Strategic Framework for Public Health Emergencies. We encouraged our health officials to continue exploring the possibility of establishing an APT Regional Reserve of Medical Supplies for Public Health Emergencies (APT RRMS).
7. We emphasised the need to strengthen APT collaboration in advancing the region's recovery from the adverse socio-economic effects of the pandemic. In this regard, we welcomed the progress made in the implementation of the ASEAN Plus Three Economic Ministers' Joint Statement on Mitigating the Economic Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic adopted on 4 June 2020 and the ASEAN Plus Three Plan of Action (APT POA) on Mitigating the Economic Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic which was endorsed at the 23rd AEM Plus Three Consultations on 28 August 2020. These efforts would further strengthen collaboration and cooperation between ASEAN and the Plus Three countries, as well as prepare the region for future challenges, and achieving post-pandemic economic recovery. We welcomed the endorsement of the ASEAN Plus Three Economic Cooperation Work Programme 2021-2022 by the ASEAN Plus Three Economic Ministers during the 24th AEM Plus Three Consultations on 13 September 2021, which could enhance further collaboration and cooperation among APT countries in the areas of economic recovery, MSMEs, trade facilitation, supply chain connectivity and resilience and digitalisation among others.

8. We underlined the importance of trade and investment relations between ASEAN and the Plus Three countries. In 2020, total trade between ASEAN and the Plus Three countries reached USD875.1 billion, representing 32.9 per cent of ASEAN's total trade. Meanwhile, total Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) flows from the Plus Three Countries into ASEAN were valued at USD22.0 billion in 2020, accounting for 16.7 per cent of total FDI inflows into ASEAN.
9. We stressed the importance of keeping markets open to strengthen the connectedness, resiliency and sustainability of regional logistics systems and supply chains and maintain the flow of essential goods and services including food, medicines, medical and other essential supplies. We also underlined the need for maintaining necessary, strategic, and functional interconnectedness in the region by facilitating and strengthening the essential movement of people and goods for diplomatic, humanitarian, scientific, medical, technological, and business activities. We reiterated the need for the resumption of safe, secured, unimpeded, and essential travels to jumpstart the region's economic recovery. We also discussed the need to identify joint activities that can be undertaken to promote business linkages among APT countries.
10. We expressed our appreciation to the East Asia Business Council (EABC) for their support and cooperation as well as valuable inputs in advancing regional economic integration, and urged the EABC to continue playing a bigger role in this respect. We also emphasised emergency trade measures deemed necessary for responding to public health emergencies should be targeted, proportionate, transparent and temporary and consistent with World Trade Organization (WTO) rules and not create unnecessary barriers to trade or disruption of global and regional supply chains. We also encouraged greater collaboration towards supply chain and logistics system resiliency and sustainability, particularly for industries engaged in the manufacture and distribution of essential goods and commodities.
11. We reaffirmed our strong commitment to the open, free, fair, inclusive, transparent, and non-discriminatory rules-based multilateral trading system centred on the WTO. We also expressed our support for an enhanced regional economic integration. In this regard, we welcomed the signing of the RCEP Agreement in November 2020, and reaffirmed the commitment to expedite respective domestic procedures to have the RCEP Agreement enter into force in early January 2022, as targeted, and to ensure its full implementation, in order to enhance market access opportunities for businesses and people and to enable the region to achieve post-pandemic recovery.
12. We acknowledged the key leadership role of the World Health Organization (WHO) and the fundamental role of the United Nations system in catalysing and coordinating

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the comprehensive global response to the COVID-19 pandemic. We recognised the importance of following up on the World Health Assembly Resolution (WHA) 74/7 in its entirety, including the Assembly's call to strengthen WHO preparedness for and response to health emergencies, and supported the WHA Decision 74/16 to consider the development of a WHO convention, agreement or other international instrument on pandemic preparedness and response.

13. We acknowledged the progress made in the implementation of the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Strategy (APTCS) 2016-2025 and looked forward to the convening of the 21st Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry Plus Three (AMAF+3). We called for the enhancement of APT cooperation in ensuring food security particularly in the post-pandemic period, including through the full and effective utilisation of the ASEAN Plus Three Emergency Rice Reserve (APTERR) and the ASEAN Food Security Information System (AFSIS), to overcome possible food shortages as well as strengthen the resiliency and sustainability of regional food supply chains and logistics systems by working closely together to ensure that markets are kept open and transportation of agricultural and food products are facilitated. We also encouraged further enhancing cooperation to achieve innovative and sustainable agricultural production and food systems.
14. We welcomed the productive outcomes of the 18th ASEAN+3 Ministers on Energy Meeting (18th AMEM+3) hosted by Brunei Darussalam on 16 September 2021 via videoconference. We were pleased to note the commitment of the AMEM+3 to pursue post-pandemic economic recovery towards sustainable development and growth by accelerating realistic energy transition, building a resilient and secure energy supply chain, delivering green jobs, and improving resource efficiency. We also acknowledged the need to explore a variety of options and utilise all fuels and technologies to ensure secure and stable supply of energy for achieving both goals of economic growth from the COVID-19 pandemic and lowering greenhouse gas emissions, and shared the view that there is no single pathway to achieve low-carbon economy, but rather there are different paths for each country. We further encouraged enhancing APT energy cooperation in line with the ASEAN Plan of Action for Energy Cooperation (APAEC) Phase II: 2021-2025. We are encouraged to explore alternative approaches for sustainable recovery, including through cooperation on the Bio-Circular-Green Economy Model and other circular economy approaches to help address common global challenges such as climate change in ensuring that growth can be achieved in a sustainable and balanced manner. In order to ensure economic recovery and sustainable growth, we called for stability in the international oil market through

sufficient supply of crude oil, including increased production.

15. We noted the region's increased reliance on the digital economy during the pandemic. To this end, we stressed the need for the region to identify challenges and opportunities as the region's economies prepare themselves for the advent of the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR), and to harness the latter as a tool to foster APT's economic recovery, including through facilitating cross-border transfer of information and data by electronic means, as well as strengthening consumer and business trust while respecting both domestic and international legal frameworks.
16. We stressed the need to assist people and businesses affected by the impact of COVID-19, especially the micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), start-ups and vulnerable groups, including through facilitating their integration into the digital economy, access to digital infrastructure and use of technologies to allow the MSMEs to maintain operations and enhance business competitiveness. We reaffirmed our continuing support for future initiatives aimed at preparing MSMEs for the advent of the 4IR.
17. We recognised the potentials of emerging technologies presented by the on-going digital transformation to boost the region's long-term competitiveness and improve the livelihood of its people. We supported the development of digital economy and innovative growth to enhance regional resilience. We were pleased to note the strong interest of the Plus Three countries in advancing smart and sustainable cities development in the region through the ASEAN Smart Cities Network (ASCN) and ASEAN Sustainable Urbanisation Strategy. We acknowledged the need to explore cooperation in intellectual property between ASEAN and the Plus Three countries, recognising the importance of promoting the protection of intellectual properties through cooperation to contribute to the balanced growth of the region.
18. We underlined the importance of the ASEAN+3 Finance Process in enhancing regional economic and financial stability. We welcomed the continued commitment of the ASEAN+3 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors to further strengthen the Chiang Mai Initiative Multilateralization (CMIM) as an effective and reliable regional self-help mechanism and an important component of the Global Financial Safety Net, with the entry into force of the amended CMIM Agreement on 31 March 2021. We also welcomed the outcome of the 24th ASEAN+3 Finance Ministers' and Central Bank Governors' Meeting held on 3 May 2021, and decided to continue working together to further enhance regional financial cooperation, including through the CMIM, the ASEAN+3 Macroeconomic Research Office (AMRO), and Asian Bond Markets Initiative (ABMI), as well as pursuit of the Strategic Directions of the ASEAN+3 Finance Process.

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We noted the need to continue to support the efforts of the Southeast Asia Disaster Risk Insurance Facility (SEADRIF) in strengthening the financial resilience of ASEAN Member States against climate and disaster risks. We encouraged the APT Inter-Bank Cooperation Mechanism (APTIBCM) to provide financing and related services to facilitate social and economic recovery in the region.

19. We commended the efforts of the ASEAN-China Centre, ASEAN-Japan Centre and ASEAN-Korea Centre to promote trade, investment, culture, tourism and people-to-people exchanges between and among ASEAN and the Plus Three countries. We recognised that the three Centres had established regular consultation meetings and called for the Centres to enhance linkages among them by exploring possible joint projects in areas of common interest.
20. We were pleased with the progress in implementing the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) 2025 and looked forward to forging cooperation with APT countries to advance its implementation in the strategic area of sustainable and quality infrastructure in accordance with international standards, digital innovation, seamless logistics, regulatory excellence, and people mobility. We reiterated the importance of developing links and synergies between MPAC 2025 and key connectivity initiatives in the region, and noted the successful convening of the Seminar on Connecting the Connectivities: Synergy through Enhanced Partnerships on 22 January 2021.
21. We noted the successful convening of the ASEAN Connectivity Coordinating Committee (ACCC) Consultations with Dialogue Partners and Other External Partners on Connectivity and the 12th ASEAN Connectivity Symposium, with support from the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), on 25 and 26 August 2021, respectively.
22. We emphasised the importance of cultural exchanges and people-to-people links to heighten awareness and foster intercultural understanding and ASEAN identity in the region. In this regard, we encouraged the effective implementation of the projects under the ASEAN Plus Three Work Plan on Cooperation in Culture and Arts 2019-2021. Noting that the existing Work Plan is nearing its completion in 2021, we called for the development of a new Work Plan. We also looked forward to the promotion of the 10+3 Network of Culture Cities and City-Level Exchanges especially through the Network of APT Culture Cities.
23. We reaffirmed our commitment in implementing the priority areas of APT health cooperation, which includes Universal Health Coverage, utilising ICT for healthcare, prevention and control of non-communicable diseases, traditional and complementary medicine, health and active ageing, human resources for health, responding to

communicable and emerging health threats and food safety, as well as issues related to antimicrobial resistance, ending all forms of malnutrition, and disaster health management.

24. We commended the efforts of the APT Health Ministers Meeting and noted the multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder collaborative activities to be undertaken in promoting healthy and active ageing as complemented by the establishment of the ASEAN Centre for Active Ageing and Innovation (ACAI) in which the agreement entered into force in 2020. We acknowledged the efforts in strengthening the healthcare and welfare system under the Asia Health and Wellbeing Initiative (AHWIN). We noted the commitment of the APT health sectors in continuing efforts on the implementation of the International Health Regulations (IHR) (2005) and the Asia Pacific Strategy for Emerging Diseases and Public Health Emergencies (APSED III) to enhance ASEAN Member States and the Plus Three countries' capacity to prevent, detect, and respond to public health threats.
25. We welcomed the continued commitment of the APT Health Ministers made at their meeting via video conference on 7 April 2020 in enhancing free, open, transparent and timely sharing of information, data and expertise on COVID-19 prevention, detection, control and response measures, epidemiologic surveillance updates, risk assessment results, epidemiological and clinical studies on the virus and the disease, treatment experience, including the application of traditional medicine and technical guidelines. We also recognised the importance of cooperation in development, manufacturing and distribution of diagnostics, anti-viral medicines, therapeutics and vaccines, adhering to the objectives of efficiency, safety, quality, equal accessibility and affordability, as well as to consider ASEAN's potential as a regional vaccine hub. We noted the role of the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI), the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI) and the International Vaccine Institute (IVI), as well as the COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access (COVAX) Facility and Advance Market Commitment in developing and delivering vaccines. We also emphasised the need to expand vaccine cooperation, including through vaccine research, development as well as procurement, and promote vaccine multilateralism, equitable access to and accelerate production and distribution of safe, effective, quality and affordable vaccines among APT countries, given the rise in COVID-19 variants. We encouraged continuing commitment, after overcoming the challenges related to COVID-19 and revitalising national health systems, on collaboration in learning from the regional and national experiences in responding to COVID-19 challenges, as well as to further strengthen and institutionalise preparedness, surveillance, prevention, detection and response

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mechanisms of the ASEAN and Plus Three countries on public health emergencies and other crises.

26. We recognised the importance of mental health as a critical public health issue which has been exacerbated by disasters and public health emergencies and other emerging and unprecedented crises, including the COVID-19 pandemic. We commended the priority accorded by the ASEAN Health Sector in the promotion of mental health through its ASEAN Post-2015 Health Development Agenda. In addition, we adopted the APT Leaders' Statement on Cooperation on Mental Health Amongst Adolescents and Young Children, and looked forward to the conduct of a regional workshop on the sharing of best practices on mental health promotion in school settings amongst APT countries in the first quarter of 2022.
27. We reiterated the commitment to advance cooperation in promoting sustainable, inclusive and innovative development, as well as in strengthening cooperation with all stakeholders, including the private sector, to achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). We support ASEAN's efforts in narrowing the development gap and promoting sustainable and equitable development across the ASEAN Community including through aligning sub-regional growth with the comprehensive development of ASEAN. We reaffirmed our commitment to forge closer cooperation in poverty alleviation and welcomed the continued progress of the East Asia Poverty Reduction Cooperation Initiative. We called for the development of collaborative projects to protect and conserve the environment and biodiversity, promote sustainable use of natural resources, including water resource management and sustainable development of mineral resources, and to address climate change and the issue of marine plastic debris. In this regard, we welcomed the continuous contribution of the Plus Three countries to reduce marine debris through the ASEAN Plus Three Marine Plastic Debris Cooperative Action Initiative. We welcomed in particular activities of the Regional Knowledge Centre for Marine Plastic Debris (RKC-MPD) of the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) to address the marine plastic issue, as well as collective efforts towards the achievement of Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP). We noted with appreciation the activities of the Private Sector Platform by RKC-MPD to promote the collaboration between policymakers and business sectors to tackle the marine plastic issue.
28. We were encouraged by the progress of cooperation on social welfare and development through the SOMSWD+3 platform. We reaffirmed our commitment to forging ahead with the implementation of the ASEAN Regional Framework and Action Plan on Implementing the ASEAN Declaration on Strengthening Social Protection

and the ASEAN Enabling Masterplan 2025: Mainstreaming the Rights of Persons with Disabilities with the emphasis on strengthening social protection systems for vulnerable groups to ensure access to much needed public goods and services. We looked forward to the roll-out of the Ha Noi Declaration on Strengthening Social Work Towards Cohesive and Responsive ASEAN Community particularly the development and implementation of the declaration's roadmap. We likewise looked forward to the development of regional plans of action to implement the Declaration on the Protection of Children from all Forms of Online Exploitation and Abuse in ASEAN, and the ASEAN Declaration on the Rights of Children in the Context of Migration.

29. We reaffirmed our commitment in promoting gender equality and empowerment of women and girls through the ACW+3 platform. We commended the continued efforts of ACW to forge ahead with gender mainstreaming efforts across the ASEAN Community Pillars and with advancing Women, Peace and Security. We looked forward to the finalisation of the ASEAN Gender Mainstreaming Strategic Framework and the finalisation of the Regional Plan of Action on Women, Peace and Security in ASEAN. We shared the need to work closely to strengthen gender data and statistics for evidence-informed policy and program.
30. We reiterated the need for an enabling environment with supporting instruments that would facilitate student mobility with quality assurance among the APT countries. In this regard, we looked forward to the adoption of Guide on Making Information Available 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. We also noted with appreciation the substantive progress made in the implementation of the APT Plan of Action on Education 2018-2025.
31. We welcomed the convening of the 11th ASEAN Plus Three Senior Officials Meeting on Education (SOMED+3) and the 5th ASEAN Plus Three Education Ministers Meeting hosted by the Philippines on 30 September and 1 October 2021 respectively. We recognised the need to address the profound impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on our national education systems and regional education cooperation.
32. We commended the efforts of the APT Ministerial Meeting on Youth in providing greater access for engagement among youth in APT countries and establishing effective communication through various annual youth exchanges and community immersions which provided an opportunity for meaningful cross-cultural understanding. We commended the commitment of ASEAN Youth Ministers in further strengthening APT collaborations on youth development with a view to addressing the challenges of Industry 4.0, digitalisation and the evolving demand of the labour market and noted

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with satisfaction the contribution of youth empowerment activities and people-to-people exchange programmes among APT countries. We welcomed the endorsement of the APT Work Plan on Youth 2021-2025 by the APT Senior Officials' Meeting on Youth to support APT initiatives in youth development and looked forward to its adoption by the APT Ministerial Meeting on Youth.

33. We commended the steady progress of implementation of the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation on Civil Service Matters (ACCSM+3) Work Plan 2016-2020 which laid down the groundwork to advance the work of ACCSM+3 through the commitments made under the ACCSM+3 Work Plan 2021-2025 that cover areas of mutual interests including e-governance, human resource management and human resource development, productivity in public sector, good governance, public sector reform, local administration capacity building and cooperation, and research and innovation. We supported the ASEAN Declaration on Fostering Civil Service's Adaptability to the New Challenges that was adopted by ACCSM. On this note, we welcomed the initiatives supported by the APT Cooperation Fund that sought to strengthen the overall capabilities of the ASEAN Civil Services, including the ongoing Baseline Study on Governance Systems among APT Countries and the adoption of the ASEAN Guidelines on Public Service Delivery. We also welcomed the adoption of the ASEAN Cooperation on Civil Service Matters Framework of Strategic Partnerships to guide Member States in building partnerships with other ASEAN sectoral bodies and external parties, including APT countries, in promoting good governance principles, agile civil service in the digital era, and other areas of mutual interest pertaining to civil service matters.
34. We noted the strengthening of the APT cooperation in the labour sector through the adoption of the first APT Senior Labour Officials Meeting (SLOM+3) Work Plan 2021-2025 that covered the areas of human resources development, inclusive growth, sustainable development as a response to the ASEAN economic integration, social dialogue, and occupational safety and health in the workplace, and social protection. We looked forward to the effective implementation of the Work Plan through practical activities and projects. We appreciated the support of the Republic of Korea (ROK) to the development and implementation of the ASEAN Guidelines on Gender Mainstreaming into Labour and Employment Policies to Promote Decent Work for All and the Project on Enhancing the Competitiveness of ASEAN Human Resources through Responsive TVET Curriculum supported by Involvement of Industries and Labour Market Information. We also appreciated the support of Japan to the implementation of the ASEAN Guiding Principles for Quality Assurance and Recognition of Competency Certification Systems (Phase 2). We supported the implementation of

- initiatives in the Roadmap of ASEAN Declaration on Human Resources Development for the Changing World of Work and welcomed the collaboration with the APT countries.
35. We encouraged the enhancement of regional cooperation on disaster management and emergency response, particularly to support the implementation of the AADMER Work Programme 2021-2025 and the ASEAN Declaration on One ASEAN One Response, by promoting cooperation on policy coordination, information exchanges and conducting joint training to enhance disaster management capabilities, reduce disaster risks and losses in the region, as well as supporting regional capacities in disaster management and emergency response, and addressing their disruptions to the socio-economic development. Cognisant of the importance of nurturing a mutually beneficial and collaborative relationship with ASEAN's partners in the field of disaster management, we welcomed the inaugural ASEAN-China Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management (AMMDM Plus China) and the ASEAN-Japan Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management (AMMDM Plus Japan) on 14 October 2021. We also looked forward to the establishment of the ASEAN-ROK Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management (AMMDM Plus ROK) in 2022.
 36. We noted the successful convening of the 15th Annual Meeting of Deans and Directors of Diplomatic Training Institutions of ASEAN Plus Three, hosted virtually by the Foreign Service Training Institute of Japan on 9 March 2021, where useful discussions were held on strengthening knowledge and information sharing, as well as enhancing cooperation among the institutions in the COVID-19 era. We further noted the 2nd Young Diplomats Seminar with the theme of "Global Health Agenda and COVID-19", held online alongside on 8 March 2021, as part of the said Meeting.
 37. We acknowledged the important contribution of the East Asia Forum (EAF) as a Track 1.5 level platform for government, business, academia and think tanks to further deepen East Asia cooperation. In this regard, we welcomed the convening of the 19th EAF under the theme "Working Towards an Inclusive and Resilient Recovery from COVID-19 in East Asia", to be hosted by the ROK in November 2021.
 38. We also recognised the important contributions of the Network of East Asia Think-Tanks (NEAT) towards APT cooperation. We welcomed the outcomes of the 33rd NEAT Country Coordinators Meeting (NEAT-CCM) on 20 April 2021 and the 34th NEAT-CCM on 1 September 2021, and the five NEAT working group meetings on various topics held this year, which advocated for regional preparedness and resilience in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, with a focus on helping MSMEs and working towards sustainable development in the region.
 39. We also underscored the importance of forging closer cooperation in other areas such

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as science, technology and innovation, tourism, media, food and energy security, and minerals. We looked forward to the implementation of the APT Tourism Cooperation Work Plan 2021-2025, which focuses on strengthening the APT tourism cooperation in the next 5 years and prioritising the recovery of tourism in the APT region. In this regard, we tasked the APT tourism senior officials to develop strategic cooperation programmes, taking into account new dynamics in the industry and to explore innovative ways to revitalise the tourism sector in the post-COVID19 pandemic in collaboration with all stakeholders including the private sector. We also welcomed the convening of the 3rd APT Young Scientists Collaborative Innovation Forum on 9 September 2021. In addition, we encouraged the APT countries to explore closer cooperation in other areas such as supporting MSMEs, environment, climate change, climate resilience of agricultural production, digital transformation, cyber security, data protection, human resource development, women empowerment and gender equality, disaster management and narrowing the development gap.

Regional and International Issues

Developments in Myanmar

40. We discussed the recent developments in Myanmar and expressed concern over the situation in the country, including reports of fatalities and violence. We also heard calls for the release of political detainees including foreigners. We called on Myanmar to fulfill its commitment to the Five-Point Consensus of the ASEAN Leaders' Meeting on 24 April 2021 and acceptance for the timely and complete implementation of the Five-Point Consensus, namely, the immediate cessation of violence in Myanmar and all parties to exercise utmost restraint; constructive dialogue among all parties concerned shall commence to seek a peaceful solution in the interests of the people; the Special Envoy of the ASEAN Chair to facilitate mediation of the dialogue process, with the assistance of the Secretary-General of ASEAN; ASEAN to provide humanitarian assistance through the AHA Centre; and the Special Envoy and delegation to visit Myanmar to meet with all parties concerned. We welcomed the efforts by the Special Envoy of the ASEAN Chair on Myanmar and called on all parties concerned in Myanmar to swiftly and fully implement the Five-Point Consensus, including by facilitating the visit of the Special Envoy to Myanmar to build trust and confidence with full access to all parties concerned. We welcomed the provision of humanitarian assistance to the people of Myanmar through the AHA Centre. We welcomed the continued support from our external partners, including China, Japan and the ROK, for ASEAN's efforts in the swift and complete implementation of the Five-Point Consensus, particularly on humanitarian

assistance.

Korean Peninsula

41. We reaffirmed our support for diplomacy and dialogue in achieving complete denuclearisation and establishment of permanent peace on the Korean Peninsula. We recognised the efforts made by all parties concerned to resume dialogue and advance the peace process on the Korean Peninsula over the past four years. We stressed the importance of continued sustainable peaceful dialogue amongst all parties concerned in order to achieve peace and stability in a denuclearised Korean Peninsula. We also welcomed the restoration of inter-Korean communication lines and acknowledged that it will contribute to further improving and developing the inter-Korean relations. We urged all parties concerned to continue working together constructively towards the complete denuclearisation and permanent peace on the Korean Peninsula, including through the full and expeditious implementation of the 2018 Panmunjom Declaration, the Pyongyang Joint Declaration between the ROK and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), and the Singapore Joint Statement by the Leaders of the United States and the DPRK. We underscored the significance of maintaining peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula and welcomed the ROK's efforts to advance inter-Korean dialogue, engagement, and cooperation to restore the virtuous cycle where inter-Korean relations and US-DPRK relations advance in a mutually reinforcing manner. We reiterated our commitment to the full implementation of all relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions. The importance of international efforts to bring about the complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula was stressed in the Meeting. We stressed the need to promote a conducive atmosphere to peaceful dialogue among the concerned partners, including through utilising ASEAN-led platforms. We noted views expressed by some Leaders on the importance of addressing the humanitarian concerns of the international community, including the immediate resolution of the abductions issues.

IV. Key Statements on Practical Cooperation



IV. Key Statements on Practical Cooperation

Cha-am Hua Hin Statement on ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation on Food Security and Bio-Energy Development

Cha-am Hua Hin, Thailand, 24 October 2009

We, the Heads of State/Government of the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the People's Republic of China, Japan, and the Republic of Korea, on the occasion of the 12th ASEAN Plus Three Summit in Cha-am Hua Hin, Thailand, on 24 October 2009;

Sharing common concerns over food security and the need to develop sustainable bio-energy in the light of ongoing volatility in food and energy prices which have affected the livelihood of our people and our economic growth;

Recognizing correlation between food and energy security which needs to be addressed in a comprehensive manner, and with a view to balancing food and fuel crop production so as to ensure the sustainable food security;

Reiterating our commitment to ensure food and energy security for our people and the need to promote sustainable development as a matter of high priority of the regional community-building process;

Recognizing that each country needs to maximize the use of its own potential resources and to achieve greater agricultural production in a sustainable manner;

Further recognizing that securing a reliable supply of energy while addressing social and environmental aspects is crucial to support economic and industrial activities and therefore the research and development of alternative energy sources should be promoted;

Recalling the 2nd Joint Statement on East Asia Cooperation and the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Work Plan (2007-2017) adopted at the 11th ASEAN Plus Three Summit in Singapore in November 2007 that called for wideranging areas of cooperation, including food and energy security;

Reaffirming our commitment to the Cebu Declaration on East Asian Energy Security on 15

January 2007 to improve energy efficiency and conservation, promote fuel diversification, and enhance cooperation on research and development for new and renewable energy sources and technologies, including bio-fuels;

Welcoming the adoption of the Rome Declaration on World Food Security and the World Food Summit Plan of Action at the World Food Summit in 1996 and the Declaration adopted at the FAO High-level Conference on World Food Security: the Challenges of Climate Change and Bio-energy held in June 2008 and the Comprehensive Framework for Action for the High Level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis;

DO HEREBY DECLARE TO:

1. Enhance food production capability for the well-being of our peoples as an integral part of the Millennium Development Goals;
2. Support ASEAN's efforts in implementing the ASEAN Integrated Food Security Framework and the Strategic Plan of Action on Food Security in the ASEAN region with active participation from all stakeholders;
3. Strengthen ASEAN Plus Three partnership in developing the ASEAN Food Security Information System (AFSIS) to ensure long-term adequacy of staple food supply through the regional mechanism of the ASEAN Plus Three agricultural cooperation framework;
4. Support the continuation of the East Asia Emergency Rice Reserve (EAERR) pilot project and explore the possibility of establishing an ASEAN Plus Three Emergency Rice Reserve (APTERR) based on the experience of the EAERR, in close coordination with relevant international organizations, and taking into account each member country's commitment and consistency with international rules;
5. Task our Agriculture and Forestry Ministers in consultations with relevant Ministers and international institutions to develop a comprehensive strategy on sustainable and integrated food and biofuels production and consumption that will promote a better allocation of resources for the production of both food and bio-fuels, which will ensure the compatibility with food production, and report to the ASEAN Plus Three Summit in 2010;
6. Promote the sharing of best practices and exchanges of information on policies, experiences, and enhance capacity building and technical cooperation to promote the harmonization of food safety and bio-energy production standards in the region;
7. Encourage investment in forestry, agricultural infrastructure, and contract farming guided by environmental protection principles to mitigate the possible disadvantages of large scale contract farming activities to ensure sustainable and enhanced food supply,

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and the well-being of farmers and the farmer empowerment;

8. Enhance trade in agriculture in the manner that will reduce trade and market distortions and ensure food availability;
9. Promote bio-energy trade and technology innovation to ensure longterm viability of bio-energy, including exploring the possibility of formulating regional policies on bio-energy trade that addresses the issues of the environment, land utilization and food security;
10. Enhance the partnership with regional and international organizations to promote collaborative research and development, and technology transfer in food security and bio-energy, especially second-generation bio-fuels, and the new technologies for the use of alternative energy;
11. Promote cooperation on addressing climate change related issues, such as droughts, floods, and epidemics with a view to enhancing food security;

Chairman's Statement of the 12th ASEAN Plus Three Summit, Cha-am Hua Hin, Thailand, 24 October 2009.

Leaders' Statement on ASEAN Plus Three Partnership on Connectivity

Phnom Penh, 19 November 2012

WE, the Heads of State/Government of the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), and the People's Republic of China, Japan, the Republic of Korea, on 19 November 2012 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, on the occasion of the 15th Anniversary of ASEAN Plus Three cooperation;

RECOGNIZING the importance of the multi-layered ASEAN-led regional mechanisms as well as ASEAN's relations with its Dialogue Partners, which are mutually reinforcing in enhancing ASEAN Connectivity;

RECALLING the Phnom Penh Agenda, adopted by ASEAN Leaders during the 20th ASEAN Summit, that has given a high priority on the timely implementation of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC), to accelerate the integration process and strengthen ASEAN's external relations;

REAFFIRMING our commitment on this occasion of the 15th anniversary of the ASEAN Plus Three cooperation to the long-term goal of building an East Asian community, with the ASEAN as the driving force and the ASEAN Plus Three process as a main vehicle, taking into account that East Asia Summit (EAS) framework also plays a complimentary role in community building in the region; ACKNOWLEDGING that ASEAN Connectivity is a foundation of the development of enhanced connectivity in East Asia and that the enhanced connectivity is one of the key elements in building an East Asian community;

RECALLING ALSO the 2010 Ha Noi Declaration on the Adoption of the MPAC and the 2009 ASEAN Leaders' Statement on ASEAN Connectivity, which will complement and support integration within ASEAN as well as within the broader regional framework in East Asia;

WELCOMING the Declaration of the 6th East Asia Summit (EAS) on ASEAN Connectivity adopted in 2011 that promoted the role of EAS partners in ASEAN Connectivity, including to consider the possibility of developing the concept of "Connectivity Master Plan Plus" in the future, which would develop further linkages between ASEAN and its EAS Partners, while maintaining ASEAN Connectivity as a priority by effectively implementing the MPAC;

REAFFIRMING ALSO the importance of ongoing efforts on ASEAN connectivity cooperation

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under the ASEAN Plus One frameworks, which are complementary and mutually-reinforcing to the ASEAN Plus Three and the EAS frameworks;

REALIZING that the geographical proximity, the increasing interdependence, and the wide-ranging existing mechanisms under the ASEAN Plus Three cooperation are mutually beneficial to the development of ASEAN Plus Three Partnership on Connectivity, which will contribute to the implementation of the MPAC and promote regional connectivity--thereby bringing the region closer towards the shared long-term goal of realizing an East Asian community;

DO HEREBY DECLARE TO:

1. Support ASEAN's efforts in implementing the MPAC;
2. Prioritize enhancing connectivity in all areas of cooperation and mechanisms under the ASEAN Plus Three framework;
3. Develop ASEAN Plus Three partnership to enhance connectivity through the timely implementation of the projects related to connectivity, in particular the 15 Priority Projects identified under the three-pronged strategies of the MPAC, namely physical, institutional, and people-to-people connectivity;
4. Task our relevant Ministers to explore the possibility of additional financing mechanisms/ modalities under ASEAN Plus Three framework to support the implementation of ASEAN connectivity projects.
5. Task our relevant Ministers to study measures to promote infrastructure financing including private sector involvement and public-private partnership in connectivity projects;
6. Task our relevant Ministers to consider establishing study groups, through various mechanisms, to recommend ways and means to push forward ASEAN Plus Three partnership on Connectivity cooperation in relevant areas, covering the three pronged-strategies of the MPAC;
7. Support the ongoing process towards establishing the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) as well as other measures to facilitate economic activities among ASEAN and its Free Trade Agreement (FTA) partners including Plus Three countries;
8. Enhance ASEAN Plus Three cooperation in combating transnational crimes to prevent impediments to connectivity development in the region; and further strengthen cooperation on sectors that will be affected by enhanced connectivity, such as by intensifying capacity building activities and promoting good governance through the sharing of best practices on public-private partnerships, transparency and

accountability;

9. Support the establishment of an ASEAN Plus Three University Network (AUN+3), as well as the implementation of the ASEAN Plus Three Plan of Action on Education, including the promotion of credit transfer system and quality assurances among universities in the ASEAN Plus Three countries;
10. Welcome Siem Reap City as the Cultural City of East Asia for 2012 and a greed to have further discussions on the new initiative of the Cultural City of East Asia;
11. Welcome the designation of the year 2012 as the "Visit ASEAN Plus Three Year";
12. Look forward to the signing of Memorandum of Cooperation on ASEAN Plus Three Tourism Cooperation, which will be one of the key instruments to promote people-to-people connectivity in ASEAN and the Plus Three countries;
13. Task our relevant Ministers to synergize as appropriate ASEAN Plus Three Partnership on Connectivity into the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Work Plan (2007-2017) as well as to consider the possibility of having a "Connectivity Master Plan Plus" in the future in cooperation with the EAS partners;
14. Encourage the ASEAN Connectivity Coordinating Committee (ACCC) to work with Plus Three countries to coordinate the efforts in connectivity under ASEAN Plus Three frameworks.

ASEAN Plus Three Statement on Active Ageing

Vientiane, 7 September 2016

WE, the Heads of State and Government of the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the People's Republic of China, Japan, the Republic of Korea, gathering at the 19th ASEAN Plus Three Summit on 7 September 2016 in Vientiane, Lao PDR;

RECOGNIZING the growing trend of ageing population in the region and the need to address the challenges in providing adequate care and support and promoting the quality of life and well-being of older persons;

COGNISANT of the significance of consolidating the ASEAN Community by realising a rules-based, people-oriented, people-centered ASEAN Community, where people enjoy higher quality of life, as envisioned in the ASEAN Community Vision 2025;

REAFFIRMING the commitment by all states to global and regional frameworks related to active ageing, especially to implementing the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), advanced further by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, with its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of which Goal 3 is to "Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages"; the UN Principles for Older Persons (1991); the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (2002); and the Shanghai Regional Implementation Strategy on Ageing (2002);

RECALLING World Health Assembly(WHA) resolution 69.3 (2016) on the global strategy and action plan on ageing and health 2016–2020: towards a world in which everyone can live a long and healthy life;

RECALLING ASEAN's collective commitments in the Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Ageing: Empowering Older Persons in ASEAN (2015); and the Brunei Darussalam Declaration on Strengthening Family Institution: Caring for the Elderly (2010);

NOTING that older persons can contribute to, and remain active members of their communities, and can offer opportunities for both individuals and societies, and that good health including functional ability is of great importance;

RECOGNIZING the wisdom of older persons, including their authority in the family, and their inspiration to children and youth to stay away from drugs and criminal activities, value the

importance of education, and become upright members of the community;

SUPPORTING ASEAN's effort in the development of an ASEAN regional action plan on ageing as assigned in the Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Ageing to promote capacity building of ASEAN Member States in effectively dealing with an ageing society;

PROMOTING a holistic approach, which is required in raising the quality of life and well-being of older persons and in addressing the multi-dimensional nature of ageing, which includes security, health, self-reliance and community participation;

ANTICIPATING the finalization of the ASEAN Active Ageing study which endeavors to come up with an ASEAN definition and framework on active ageing, and further develop regional initiatives in promoting active ageing through development of regional guidelines, fostering collaborative efforts among member states, proposing change management processes on programs on ageing and examining replication and adaptability of the best practices of each member state;

WE DO HEREBY DECLARE TO:

1. Promote greater inclusion for active aging in national policy making and action plans, including active employment policies, social protection, welfare and healthcare services, as well as mainstreaming those policies and action plans across government sectors, adapted to national priorities;

Elderly Care and Health

2. Promote an inclusive approach and a community-based model in elderly care with the involvement of all relevant stakeholders;
3. Facilitate exchanges and sharing of lessons learned, experiences, and practices in social protection for older persons and the design and delivery of targeted assistance for the needy elderly;
4. Promote capacity building and expertise in elderly care for the family, community, and social as well as medical personnel in gerontological services and increase the availability of care takers through home visit services by health professional or community health workers;
5. Encourage the establishment of official standardization and certification for social workers and caregivers servicing older persons in order to enhance their competencies;
6. Promote awareness on the role of family in caring for the older persons and to enhance capacity building of care givers in providing quality care;
7. Enhance regional efforts to promote the life course approach and access to healthcare services aligned with the needs of older populations and address barriers to healthcare services;

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8. Promote access to affordable and appropriate health services for older persons and develop a sustainable health financing system, protecting older persons against illness-induced poverty and undue out-of-pocket payment, which work to deliver universal and equitable healthcare;
9. Promote collaboration in research and development on elderly health issues identified as priorities by ASEAN Plus Three countries;

Economic Empowerment

10. Encourage older persons to be economically active after retirement, including through promotion of part-time employment, promotion of self-employment, promotion of tax incentives for entrepreneurs, improvement of working environments and working conditions conducive to job retention, and encouragement of private saving during work years;
11. Enhance regional effort in mobilizing financial resources for active ageing, bearing in mind the differences of demographic trends and income support schemes for older persons;
12. Promote lifelong learning opportunities and access to vocational training;

Supportive Environment for inclusive society

13. Encourage social interest groups as an active platform for older persons to enhance their engagement and connection to the community;
14. Promote age-friendly communities including in rural areas through sustainable and accessible hard and soft infrastructures, as well as the development of healthcare industries that facilitate older persons to be self-reliant in their daily life, and provide convenient access to public services;
15. Encourage the exchange and sharing of experiences among member countries in embracing universal design and innovations to promote supportive environments for older persons, including those that require intensive care/with mobility constraint. For example, the ASEAN+3 Regional Conference Age-Friendly Environment which was held in Thailand in February 2016 and the Track 1.5 Workshop "Caring for Elderly in ASEAN Plus Three-Research and Policy Challenges in Long Term Care" which was held in Singapore in March 2016;
16. Encourage scientific and research institutions in ASEAN Plus Three countries to build networks and strengthen their research capacity on ageing to develop innovative solutions that address specific needs and promote better quality of life and well-being of older persons; and
17. Promote intergenerational solidarity towards a society for all ages by raising public awareness on the issues and challenges of all ages and ageing through traditional and

new media.

ASSIGN the ASEAN Plus Three Ministerial Meeting for Social Welfare and Development (AMMSWD+3), with the support of ASEAN Plus Three Senior Official Meeting for Social Welfare and Development (SOMSWD+3) to coordinate and collaborate with related ASEAN sectoral bodies for the effective implementation of this statement, including mobilizing appropriate resources.

Adopted in Vientiane, Lao PDR, this Seventh Day of September in the Year Two Thousand and Sixteen.

ASEAN Plus Three Leaders' Statement on Promoting Sustainable Development Cooperation

Vientiane, 7 September 2016

We, the Heads of State/Government of the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asia Nations (ASEAN) and the People's Republic of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea, gathered during the 19th ASEAN Plus Three Summit held in Vientiane, Lao PDR, on 7 September 2016;

NOTING with satisfaction the progress made in ASEAN Plus Three cooperation in all sectors over the past 18 years and reiterating our commitments to further enhancing and expanding cooperation in the future;

REAFFIRMING our commitment to implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted on 25 September 2015 in United Nations Sustainable Development Summit 2015 in New York, the Paris Agreement, adopted at the 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Paris, France within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and rendering our concerted efforts to fulfill the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) over the next decades in ASEAN Plus Three cooperation framework;

RECOGNISING the significance of sustainable development in securing a rules-based, people-oriented, people-centred ASEAN Community as envisioned in the ASEAN Community Vision 2025, guided by the purposes and principles of the ASEAN Charter, which will serve as a solid foundation for enduring peace, stability and prosperity in the region;

UNDERLINING the complementarity between the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 to uplift the living standards of our people, while leaving no one behind;

CALLING ON all the countries to take comprehensive, expeditious and concrete actions to advance the implementation of SDGs in the spirit of equality, cooperation and inclusiveness, as well as to strengthen regional and international partnership in the implementation process;

DO HEREBY DECLARE to embark on a course of equitable, inclusive, open, all-round and innovation-driven development in the interest of advancing sustainable development of all ASEAN and the Plus Three Countries, and to take concrete actions as follows:

A. To reduce poverty and narrow the development gap within and between

countries:

- To provide necessary support for ASEAN to narrow the development gap and accelerate economic integration among its member states through the implementation of the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) Work Plan II and its successor documents, focusing on the development of human capital, the sharing of lessons learned, and the formulation of appropriate policy responses;
- To promote exchange and cooperation among relevant authorities and stakeholders in implementing poverty alleviation programmes in ASEAN and the Plus Three Countries;
- To facilitate poverty reduction cooperation through policy dialogues, mutual visits of personnel, capacity building programmes, information exchanges and joint studies;
- To support rural and community development by encouraging relevant agencies to conduct information and expertise exchanges, capacity building activities and pilot projects in land use, planning, development and management;
- To promote greater protection of the environment, addressing the challenge of climate change, and sustainable management of natural resources;
- To promote equal opportunities to quality education and employment and encourage regional cooperation on human resources development in all areas;
- To promote greater access to basic social services for all such as health services and enhanced cooperation in the areas of social protection and universal health coverage;
- To promote trade openness in ASEAN Plus Three countries, supported by appropriate regulatory reforms, capacity building, technical assistance, social protection and infrastructure development to contribute to poverty reduction and narrowing the development gap;
- To support the most vulnerable in ASEAN with economic assistance from Plus Three countries to harmonize regional development;
- To strengthen the ASEAN Secretariat as a regional surveillance capacity to monitor ASEAN Plus Three development achievement and to act as an advocate at the regional level to influence the allocation of development cooperation.

B. To promote sustainable development of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)

- To support the implementation of the ASEAN Strategic Action Plan for SME Development (2016-2025), including sharing of best practices, experiences, on the development of MSMEs as well as convening of capacity building programmes, seminars, workshops, and symposiums;

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- To strengthen policy consultations and exchange of expertise between the concerned authorities, including relevant stakeholders on MSMEs and MSMEs cooperation;
- To strengthen cooperation in traditional areas, including trade, agriculture and tourism, and explore relevant new areas of cooperation conducive to economic growth such as environment, energy, digital economy, human resource development, education, science and technology;
- To empower MSMEs through better access to financing and markets as well as other relevant means of support.

C. To promote sustainable tourism cooperation

- Reaffirm our commitment to strengthen and broaden the efforts in paving the way towards sustainability of tourism growth and cooperation in accordance with the implementation of the Memorandum of Cooperation between the Governments of the Member States of ASEAN and the Government of the Plus Three Countries on Strengthening Tourism Cooperation which was signed on 22 January 2016 in Manila, the Philippines with an innovative and holistic approach;
- Enhance cooperation in the purpose of developing quality, responsible, sustainable, accessible, inclusive and balanced tourism, including preservation of attraction sites, cultural heritage and its surrounding environment, as well as development, promotion, diversification and marketing of tourism products in order to contribute to sustainable development in the region;
- Establish and improve information sharing mechanisms on tourism statistics and strategic planning, investment opportunities, economic data and tourism-related risk management, as well as the involvement of private sector in tourism in the region;
- Enhance cooperation in tourism education, capacity building and personnel training to better support quality, sustainable, inclusive and balanced tourism;
- Acknowledge the importance of media and joint expo in promoting tourism cooperation and carry out more exchange projects among media agencies and journalists among ASEAN Plus Three Countries;
- Improve and expand connectivity and upgrade tourism-related infrastructure and services, taking into account accessibility for persons with disabilities;
- Take effective measures to attract new and additional resources for tourism investment.

D. To enhance cultural exchange and cooperation

- To encourage and support cooperation among the departments of the ASEAN Plus

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Three Countries in charge of historical relics, archaeology and cultural heritage preservation, museums, archives, libraries and cultural institutions;

- To promote the exchange of experts and expertise in culture, traditional and contemporary art and heritage preservation activities of ASEAN Plus Three countries;
- To strengthen cooperation among the ASEAN Plus Three countries on human resource development and training in the cultural field, including through the exchange of experiences on the hosting of large-scale cultural activities.

Adopted by the Heads of State/Government of the ASEAN Plus Three Countries at the 19th ASEAN Plus Three Summit held in Vientiane, Lao PDR, on 7 September 2016.

ASEAN Plus Three Leaders' Statement on Food Security Cooperation

Manila, 14 November 2017

We, the Heads of State/Government of the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), People's Republic of China, Japan, and the Republic of Korea, on the occasion of the Commemorative Summit to Mark the 20th Anniversary of ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation held in Manila, Philippines on 14 November 2017;

Recalling our commitments under the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to end poverty in all its forms everywhere by 2030;

Reaffirming our commitment to work together to ensure food security, food safety, better nutrition and equitable distribution, as well as to promote sustainable development in the region;

Reiterating our support to ASEAN efforts to realising an ASEAN Community that is people-oriented, people-centered and socially responsible with a view to achieving enduring solidarity and unity among the peoples and Member States of ASEAN, and forging a common identity and building a caring and sharing society which is inclusive and where the well-being, livelihood, and welfare of the peoples are enhanced;

Noting the ever-increasing demand for food due to the rapid increase in global population, which has not been met by the limited growth in global grain production, and the need to safeguard regional food security with concrete and effective measures and cooperation;

Emphasising our strong determination to enhance cooperation in food security by encouraging countries in the region to take effective measures;

Recognising the importance of international partnerships with relevant UN and regional bodies to strengthen the implementation of food security policies and initiatives;

We hereby decided to undertake the following:

1. Strengthen efforts to effectively implement commitments under the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development towards ending hunger, achieving food security, improving nutrition and promoting sustainable agriculture;
2. Enhance engagement through the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry Plus

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- Three (AMAF+3) and Senior Officials Meeting of ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry Plus Three (SOM-AMAF+3) as the cooperation mechanisms in agriculture and food security area for ASEAN Member States and Plus Three countries;
3. Encourage regular policy dialogues among ASEAN Member States and Plus Three countries to exchange views on policies, share experiences and best practices, enhance cooperation and safeguard food security in the region;
 4. Support the effective implementation of the ASEAN Integrated Food Security (AIFS) Framework and the Strategic Plan of Action on Food Security in the ASEAN Region (SPA-FS), 2015-2020 and collaborate with relevant ASEAN bodies in implementing the ASEAN Food Safety Policy (AFSP);
 5. Support countries in the region to actively and effectively coordinate their policies and actions and implement the plans to improve the comprehensive grain production capacity, including through the use of green technologies, research and development and resource management systems, so as to cope with uncertain challenges to food security in the region and the world at large, including addressing the impact of climate change and fundamentally improve national and regional food security situation;
 6. Increase private sector participation in policy discussions, programmes and project formulation, research and development and provide incentives and foster an enabling environment for public-private-partnerships towards enhancing productivity and quality;
 7. Encourage countries in the region to further improve the agricultural investment environment by learning from each other, enhance the public-private-partnerships for agricultural investment and infrastructure development, so as to encourage the private sector to invest in the agricultural sector, domestically and regionally and to promote food security in the region;
 8. Call on countries in the region to encourage, through enhancing publicity work, food conservation and food waste reduction as well as strengthening of management and cooperation in grain harvest, drying, transportation, warehousing and processing to ease the pressure on food security;
 9. Strengthen the coordination of positions among ASEAN Plus Three (APT) countries on climate change, cross-border quarantine and surveillance of terrestrial and aquatic animal disease and plants pest, and joint prevention and control;
 10. Strengthen the implementation of the APT Emergency Rice Reserve (APTERR) Agreement, including the effective utilisation of APTERR's Tier 1, 2 and 3 Programmes and simplify the rules and procedures to expedite access to Tier 3 Programme during calamities, to improve the effectiveness of APTERR;
 11. Continue convening the APT Food Security Cooperation Strategic Roundtable

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Conference to strengthen food security information exchange, explore the possible establishment of a food security information sharing system among APT countries, and encourage APT countries to carry out cooperation in research and development and innovation in the area of food security;

12. Promote the exchange of information on major food commodities through available information-sharing platforms such as Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations Statistical Databases (FAOSTAT) and the ASEAN Food Security Information System (AFSIS) in order to improve the monitoring and forecasting related to the supply and demand of major food commodities within the region;
13. Enhance competitiveness and opportunities for farmers, small scale producers and micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) and those engaged in agribusiness to learn and develop more efficient farming practices and management skills, provide skill training for small farmers, promote the access to finance and the use of appropriate technologies that can improve sustainability, improve their production and living conditions, encourage youth participation in the agricultural sector in order to mitigate the problem of the lack of manpower involved in this sector, promote the establishment of agricultural cooperatives, and enhance their status and role in the higher value markets and modern food value chain;
14. Encourage private and public sectors to participate in agricultural services, foster the development of a wide range of services and a service network covering the needs before, during and after production, to provide support for safeguarding national food security; and
15. Undertake activities under the APT Bioenergy and Food Security Framework 2015 – 2025 to assist ASEAN Member States in ensuring sustainable, food-secure and climate-friendly bioenergy.

ASEAN Plus Three Leaders' Statement on Cooperation against Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)

Singapore, 15 November 2018

We, the Heads of State/Government of the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), People's Republic of China, Japan, and the Republic of Korea, on the occasion of the ASEAN Plus Three Summit held in Singapore on 15 November 2018;

Reaffirm our commitments to the UN2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to fight malaria, HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, hepatitis, the Ebola virus disease and other communicable diseases and epidemics, including addressing the growing threat of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and neglected diseases affecting developing countries in particular; while reiterating that AMR challenges the sustainability and effectiveness of the public health responses to these and other diseases as well as gains in health and development and the attainment of the 2030 Agenda;

Welcome the United Nations' (UN) Secretary-General's recent official establishment of the Interagency Coordination Group on AMR, in relation to the Political Declaration of the UN High-Level Meeting of the General Assembly on AMR in 2016;

Reaffirm that the blueprint for tackling AMR is the World Health Organization (WHO) Global Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance, which was developed through the collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) through a One Health Approach;

Acknowledge the adoption of the ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR): Combating AMR through One Health Approach during the 31st ASEAN Summit in November 2017 to engage in a multi-sectoral and multidisciplinary collaboration to develop an ASEAN strategic plan to combat AMR;

Reiterate our support of ASEAN efforts to realise an ASEAN Community that is people-oriented, people-centered and socially responsible with a view to achieving enduring solidarity and unity among the peoples and Member States of ASEAN, and forging a common identity and building a caring and sharing society which is inclusive and where the well-being, livelihood, and welfare of the peoples are enhanced;

Note with concern that AMR, a multi-sectoral issue, is a serious global health threat driven

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by antimicrobial overuse and misuse, and further exacerbated by global trade and travel. If left unchecked, AMR will result in an accelerated emergence and spread of resistant pathogens between humans and animals, through food, water and the environment, and an increased number of infected patients, animals and livestock faced with limited treatment options, threatening human, animal and environmental health, and food security;

Aware of the expansive and adverse impacts of AMR in agriculture and healthcare on human and animal health, livelihoods, food security and safety and, in this regard, we note the initiative to protect human and animal health from AMR through the ASEAN Strategic Plan to combat AMR, ASEAN Guidelines on Prudent Use of Antimicrobials in Livestock; and the initiative on the ASEAN Cooperation Activities for AMR in Aquaculture Sector;

Recognize that AMR will raise morbidity and mortality, as well as increase health care costs and reduce productivity, affecting health care systems and adversely impacting global economies;

Recognize that the overarching principle for addressing AMR is the promotion and protection of human, animal and environmental health within the framework of a One Health approach, emphasizing that this requires coherent, comprehensive and integrated multi-sectoral action, as human, animal and environmental health are interconnected;

Emphasize our strong determination to enhance close international cooperation and effective multilateral mechanism against AMR by encouraging countries in the region to take effective measures through a One Health approach;

We hereby decide to undertake the following to accelerate regional action against AMR:

1. **Strengthen efforts** to effectively implement commitments under the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to fight malaria, HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, hepatitis, the Ebola virus disease and other communicable diseases and epidemics, including by addressing growing AMR and neglected diseases;
2. **Encourage** and **support** countries in the region in the formulation and implementation of National Action Plans against AMR through the One Health approach, which integrates actions under the human health, animal health, aquaculture, agricultural and environmental sectors;
3. **Encourage** and **support** countries in the region to:
 - Implement the WHO Global Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance,
 - Educate the public and relevant sectors to improve awareness and understanding of actions taken to address AMR,
 - Strengthen surveillance systems for AMR (including resistant organisms and antimicrobial utilisation) and the implementation of the WHO Global Antimicrobial

- Surveillance System (GLASS),
- Promote prudent use of antibiotics through antimicrobial stewardship programmes,
 - Promote research and development in addressing and mitigating AMR by designing conducive incentive mechanisms, and,
 - Enhance prevention and control of infection, at all levels of human healthcare and in the animal sector;
4. **Support** a multi-sectoral One Health approach to address AMR, including through public health-driven capacity-building activities, innovative public-private partnerships and incentives, and policy dialogue with relevant stakeholders in civil society, industry, private enterprises, research institutes, academia and non-governmental organizations, including patient groups;
 5. **Enhance** engagements and exchange of knowledge through the ASEAN Plus Three Health Ministers Meeting (APTHMM), ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry Plus Three (AMAF+3) and ASEAN Plus Three Environment Ministers Meeting (APTEMM) as the cooperation mechanism in combating AMR for ASEAN Member States and Plus Three countries;
 6. **Encourage** regular policy dialogues and exchanges among ASEAN Member States and Plus Three countries through the sharing of information and views on policies, experiences and best practices, enhance cooperation, capacity-building and technology transfer on mutually agreed terms, as well as technical assistance in the areas of laboratory capability, surveillance, stewardship programmes, research, education, health systems and regulations, to combat AMR in the region; and;
 7. **Aware of** the collaboration between ASEAN Sectoral bodies to effectively implement the initiative on the ASEAN Cooperation Activities for AMR in Aquaculture Sector;
 8. **Support** the collaboration between ASEAN Sectoral bodies to effectively implement the ASEAN Strategic Plan to combat AMR, ASEAN Guidelines on Prudent Use of Antimicrobials in Livestock and other relevant initiatives.

ASEAN Plus Three Leaders' Statement on Connecting the Connectivities Initiative

Bangkok, 4 November 2019

WE, the Heads of State and Government of the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the People's Republic of China, Japan, and the Republic of Korea, gathering at the 22nd ASEAN Plus Three Summit on 4 November 2019 in Bangkok, Thailand;

RECOGNISING the geographical proximity, the increasing interdependence and growing connectivity between the ASEAN Plus Three countries and within the region as well as the challenges and opportunities stemming from the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR);

RECALLING the importance of connectivity in realising our collective efforts for regional integration and cooperation as well as the promotion of sustainable development both within ASEAN and beyond, in response to emerging challenges and opportunities;

AFFIRMING the importance of the spirit of peaceful cooperation, openness and inclusiveness, mutual learning and shared benefit in promoting infrastructure connectivity and sustainable transport, as well as regional and inter-regional economic integration and cooperation;

REAFFIRMING the ASEAN Community Vision 2025, in which enhanced connectivity is one of the key elements to building the ASEAN Community;

RECALLING the ASEAN Leaders' Statement on ASEAN Connectivity issued in Cha-am Hua Hin, Thailand, on 24 October 2009;

RECALLING the Leaders' Statement on ASEAN Plus Three Partnership on Connectivity (2012), whose main objective is to support ASEAN's efforts in implementing the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) and enhancing connectivity beyond ASEAN, in the wider region of East Asia;

REITERATING our commitment in the Manila Declaration on the 20th Anniversary of the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation (2017), where the ASEAN Plus Three countries declared to continue cooperation on ASEAN's connectivity agenda to support the implementation of the MPAC 2025;

HIGHLIGHTING the MPAC 2025, which focuses on the five Strategic Areas of: (i) sustainable

infrastructure; (ii) digital innovation; (iii) seamless logistics; (iv) regulatory excellence and; (v) people mobility;

WELCOMING the identification of economically viable connectivity-related infrastructure projects in the Initial Rolling Priority Pipeline of Potential ASEAN Infrastructure Projects under the MPAC 2025;

ACKNOWLEDGING that ASEAN Connectivity is a foundation for the development of enhanced connectivity in East Asia and that enhanced connectivity is important in building an East Asian community as envisaged in the Leaders' Statement on ASEAN Plus Three Partnership on Connectivity (2012) and the Manila Declaration on the 20th Anniversary of the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation (2017);

REAFFIRMING our commitment to promote regional connectivity in East Asia and cooperative activities to support the successful implementation of the MPAC 2025, as stated in the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Work Plan 2018-2022;

REAFFIRMING the commitment of the ASEAN Plus Three countries in enhancing regional connectivity, while noting the principles of openness, transparency, inclusiveness and ASEAN centrality presented in the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific, which puts connecting the connectivities as a priority area of cooperation;

EMPHASISING that connectivity strategies can make a strong contribution to economic growth and enhanced links within the East Asian region through the Connecting the Connectivities Initiative.

DO HEREBY DECLARE TO:

1. Promote regional connectivity among the ASEAN Plus Three countries by enhancing links and synergies between the MPAC 2025 and key connectivity initiatives promoted by China, Japan, the ROK, as well as other sub-regional and multilateral cooperation frameworks with and within ASEAN in order to attain people-oriented, people-centred community of peace and prosperity with sustainable and inclusive growth and development for shared benefit in the East Asian region, through extensive consultations and joint efforts, while reaffirming the need to promote sustainable, high quality infrastructure in accordance with broadly accepted international principles to facilitate trade, investment, and service competitiveness in the region;
2. Enhance regional and sub-regional connectivity with a view to strengthening overall economic cooperation among the ASEAN Plus Three countries, including by supporting various designated economic corridors in the region;
3. Promote complementarities between the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, where connectivity and

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infrastructure are components, to catalyse sustainable development in the ASEAN Plus Three countries;

4. Promote multi-sectoral cooperation that contributes to sustainable infrastructure, including by enhancing energy security and energy efficiency and conservation as well as promoting the use of renewable energy;
5. Enhance physical connectivity by, inter alia, promoting an integrated multimodal transport, including air, sea, and land transport between ASEAN and the wider region in order to ensure seamless logistics and enhance the ASEAN Plus Three competitiveness;
6. Promote digital connectivity and innovation in the ASEAN Plus Three countries by (a) exchanging views and information on regulatory frameworks for the delivery of digital services including data management and digital financial services; (b) sharing best practices to support the digital economy of the region; (c) supporting ASEAN's efforts to establish an ASEAN open data network which builds on ASEAN ICT Master Plan 2020; (d) equipping micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) with the capabilities to access new technologies and financial support for development and innovation; and (e) encouraging collaboration and sharing of experiences and best practices to facilitate the development of digital infrastructure and utilities;
7. Enhance regulatory excellence, including that relating to trade facilitation as well as the harmonisation and mutual recognition of standards, where applicable, in line with a country's contexts and regulations and with World Trade Organization (WTO) agreements and applicable international standards, in order to further facilitate economic activities across the ASEAN Plus Three countries;
8. Promote greater people engagement and cooperation on people-to-people connectivity initiatives by enhancing facilitation of travel and tourist visits as well as developing quality tourism, and further strengthening cultural exchanges and cooperation, in order to promote mutual understanding and greater awareness of each other's culture;
9. Enhance people-to-people connectivity, through greater collaboration on human capital development including exchange and internship in the field of technical and vocational education and training (TVET) and further promotion of student mobility and quality assurance of higher education among the ASEAN Plus Three countries, to raise the skill level of manpower and upgrade quality education in response to the challenges posed by 4IR;
10. Enhance the ASEAN Plus Three cooperation in preventing and addressing cybercrime as well as issues such as violent extremism and radicalisation, misinformation and exploitation of ICTs and enhanced connectivity by entities or individuals engaged in

transnational crime, recognising the United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice as a forum to address such matters;

11. Support efforts to advance infrastructure development and financing and encourage public-private-partnerships (PPP) in mobilising resources and expertise, information sharing, as well as developing and financing bankable projects;
12. Further strengthen existing regional financing arrangements and financial cooperation under the ASEAN Plus Three framework towards the strategic direction of maintaining regional economic and financial stability; fostering economic growth and promoting integration, and further promote partnerships between existing mechanisms and relevant financial institutions and international organisations, including Asian Development Bank (ADB), Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), ASEAN+3 Macroeconomic Research Office (AMRO), International Monetary Fund (IMF), and World Bank;
13. Encourage relevant Sectoral Bodies to explore possible cooperation in the ASEAN Plus Three framework to enhance linkages and synergies between ASEAN Connectivity and other key connectivity initiatives in the region;
14. Enhance partnership on connectivity at the regional and global levels to promote economic growth, free trade and sustainable development;
15. Encourage the ASEAN Connectivity Coordinating Committee to work with the Plus Three countries on appropriate initiatives that would enhance the implementation of the MPAC 2025, thus contributing to greater connectivity in the East Asian region as a whole.

ADOPTED in Bangkok, Thailand, on the Fourth of November in the Year Two Thousand and Nineteen.

Joint Statement of the Special ASEAN Plus Three Summit on Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

Vietnam, 14 April 2020

WE, the Heads of State/Government of the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the People's Republic of China, Japan, and the Republic of Korea, held the Special ASEAN Plus Three (APT) Summit on Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) via videoconference on 14 April 2020. The Summit was chaired by H.E. Nguyen Xuan Phuc, Prime Minister of Viet Nam, in his capacity as the Chair of ASEAN.

DEEPLY CONCERNED about the unprecedented and severe challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic to the well-being, livelihood and safety of our peoples and its adverse impact on the socio-economic development of our respective countries and the world at large.

EXPRESSING deepest condolences and sympathies for the loss of life and suffering caused by the pandemic.

RECOGNISING the exponential spread and severity of COVID-19, which the World Health Organisation (WHO) declared as a pandemic on 11 March 2020.

EMPHASIZING our gratitude and support to all medical professionals, healthcare workers and other frontline personnel who have been working with all their hearts and minds to fight the pandemic, saving people's lives.

ACKNOWLEDGING the importance of people's participation in preventing and controlling COVID-19.

WELCOMING steps taken by International Financial Institutions (IFIs) to support countries in need by using and enhancing their instruments in response to their members' urgent needs.

SUPPORTING the call by the United Nations Secretary-General for all nations to respond decisively, innovatively and collectively to suppress the spread of the virus and address the socio-economic impact of COVID-19.

NOTING the commitment expressed by the G20 Leaders in their Extraordinary Summit statement of 26 March 2020 to present a united front against the common threat of COVID-19.

STRESSING the important role of the World Health Organization (WHO) in the global campaign to control and contain the spread of COVID-19, recognising the importance of implementing the health measures under the International Health Regulations (2005) and underscoring the necessity for Universal Health Coverage (UHC) in addressing public health challenges such as COVID-19;

COGNISANT of the important role of APT cooperation for peace, security and prosperity in the East Asian region. Emphasising the significance of health cooperation and its existing mechanisms in addressing public health challenges, including our successful partnership in fighting the SARS pandemic in 2003.

COMMENDING the timely and active efforts by the APT Health cooperation platforms and among the Plus Three partners in jointly responding to COVID- 19 from its early outbreak.

NOTING with satisfaction the encouraging outcomes of the Special videoconference of the APT Senior Officials Meeting on Health Development on 3 February 2020, the China-Japan-ROK Foreign Ministers' Special videoconference on COVID-19 on 20 March 2020; the Special videoconference of the APT Health Ministers in enhancing cooperation on COVID-19 on 7 April 2020.

RECOGNISING the decisions to re-organize a number of major events including the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

WELCOMING the ASEAN Chairman's Statement of 14 February 2020 and the Declaration of the Special ASEAN Summit on COVID-19 of 14 April 2020 that demonstrated ASEAN's highest-level commitment on collective response to the outbreak of COVID-19, in the spirit of a Cohesive and Responsive ASEAN. Supporting ASEAN's multi-sectoral, multi-stakeholder, whole-of- community approach to address the multi-faceted challenges posed by COVID-19.

REAFFIRMING our shared commitment to strengthen solidarity, enhance cooperation and mutual support among the APT countries to control and contain the spread of the pandemic, addressing the adverse impact of the pandemic on our societies and economies.

To this aim, we hereby resolve to:

1. **STRENGTHEN** the early warning system in the region for pandemics and other epidemic diseases as well as regular, timely, and transparent exchange of real-time information on the situation on the ground and measures taken by each country in combating COVID-19; sharing of experience and best practices, extending mutual technical support in the prevention, containment and control of transmission as well as clinical treatment of infected cases. Support strong, collective and orchestrated response for control and treatment to harness synergies for effective curbing of COVID-19 measures that are relevant and appropriate to the severity and further

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evolution of the disease in Member States and within the region, as guided by: national risk assessments; the periodic reports on Risk Assessment on the International Dissemination of COVID-19 in the ASEAN Region; and, subsequent videoconferences of the ASEAN Plus Three SOMHD on policy and strategic matters, and the ASEAN EOC Network on technical concerns.

2. **ENHANCE** national and regional capacities to prepare for and respond to pandemics, including the protection of healthcare workers and other frontline personnel, and the provision of adequate medicines and medical supplies, especially diagnostic tools, personal protective equipment, medical equipment, by adhering to the objectives of efficacy, safety and accessibility.
3. **CONSIDER** setting up an APT reserve of essential medical supplies that enables rapid response to emergency needs. Encourage tapping on existing regional emergency reserve facilities including the warehouses managed by the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Centre), among others, further consider the utilisation of the ASEAN Plus Three Emergency Rice Reserve (APTERR).
4. **SUPPORT** ongoing regional collective efforts by the APT health cooperation sector and by ASEAN to enhance capacities to prevent, detect and respond to public health threats, leveraging on the implementation of the International Health Regulations (IHR) 2005 and through existing mechanisms, including, among others, the ASEAN Emergency Operations Center Network for public health emergencies (ASEAN EOC Network) and the ASEAN BioDiaspora Virtual Centre.
5. **STRENGTHEN** scientific cooperation in epidemiological research, including through the APT Field Epidemiology Training Network (FETN), coordination, including with the private sector, towards rapid, research, development, manufacturing and distribution of diagnostics anti-viral medicines and vaccines, adhering to the objectives of efficiency, safety, equity accessibility and affordability as well as actively share and leverage on digital technologies and innovation to promote a science-based response to combat COVID-19.
6. **ENCOURAGE** mutual support and assistance between ASEAN and the Plus Three countries in the development of human resources and capacity for the public health sector, including support for upgrading of health facilities for infection prevention and control, training of public health workers and provision of scholarships for students from ASEAN Member States to study in educational and training institutions and related fields of sciences of the Plus Three countries and strengthen the national health systems.

7. **ENDEAVOUR** to ensure adequate financing to contain the pandemic and protect our peoples, including through the proposed establishment of the COVID-19 ASEAN Response Fund for public health emergencies which would be reallocated from existing ASEAN+1 and APT cooperation funds, with possible additional support from ASEAN's external partners.
8. **ENHANCE** cooperation to provide appropriate support and assistance to nationals of the APT countries, especially the most vulnerable, who stay, work, and study in each other's countries, working towards the dignity, health, well-being, safety and fair and effective treatment of those affected by COVID-19 as well as facilitating the movement of people as appropriate.
9. **INTENSIFY** efforts to promote effective public communication, involving multiple forms of media, including timely updates of relevant government policies, public health and safety information, of clarifications on misinformation and fake news, and efforts to reduce stigmatisation and discrimination.
10. **REAFFIRM** commitments to keep markets open for trade and investment, and enhance cooperation among ASEAN Plus Three countries with a view to ensuring food security, such as the utilisation of the ASEAN Plus Three Emergency Rice Reserve (APTERR), and strengthening the resiliency and sustainability of regional supply chains, especially for essential goods such as food, commodities, medicines and medical supplies through smooth and continued operation of the logistics networks, while ensuring that measures deemed necessary for public health emergency response are targeted, proportionate, transparent and temporary and that they do not create unnecessary barriers to trade or disruption to regional supply chains, and are consistent with WTO rules.
11. **ENCOURAGE** to maintain necessary interconnectedness in the region by facilitating to the extent possible the essential movement of people, including business travels, while ensuring the safeguarding of public health in line with our efforts to combat the pandemic as well as to minimize socio-economic impacts of the COVID-19.
12. **REAFFIRM** our commitments to strengthen joint efforts toward post- pandemic recovery, stimulate economic development and financial resilience, restore growth, connectivity and tourism, maintain market stability, and prevent potential risks of economic recession.
13. **IMPLEMENT** appropriate and necessary measures to boost market confidence to improve stability and resilience of the regional economy in a preemptive and concerted manner, including through economic stimulus, and to assist people and businesses suffering from the impact of COVID- 19, especially the micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) and vulnerable groups. Leverage technologies and digital trade

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to allow businesses, especially the micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) to maintain operations.

14. **STRENGTHEN** efforts to stabilise the manufacturing and supply of essential goods and services, including vital medical supplies, critical agricultural products, maintain necessary flow of goods and services and sustain supply chain connectivity within the region and beyond by making the supply chain more resilient, sustainable and less vulnerable to shocks in order to support economic development, reaffirming our commitment described in the Joint Leader's Statement on the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership released in 2019.
15. **REMAIN** vigilant to the potential risks to regional financial stability, foster closer regional financial cooperation and policy coordination and support the ASEAN Plus Three Macroeconomic Research Office (AMRO) in monitoring the economic and financial development in the region and providing timely risk assessment and policy advice. Reaffirm our commitment to the readiness of the Chiang Mai Initiative Multilateralisation (CMIM), the Regional Financial Arrangement (RFA), as a reliable layer of the Global Financial Safety Net.
16. **COMMIT** to work closely with the WHO, relevant organisations and the international community as well as encourage public-private partnership (PPP) and a whole-of-society approach in the global fight against the pandemic, while tackling the profound social and economic consequences of COVID-19, protecting people's well-being and sustaining growth.
17. **STAY** united on high alert and be ready to take any further action that may be required.
18. **TASK** the APT Foreign Ministers to serve as the main coordinating body, in close collaboration with the relevant sectoral bodies within the APT framework, to monitor the implementation of the commitments and agreements underscored in this Statement.

Adopted on this 14th day of April, 2020.

ASEAN Plus Three Leaders' Statement on Strengthening ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation for Economic and Financial Resilience in the Face of Emerging Challenges

Vietnam, 14 November 2020

WE, the Heads of State/Government of the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the People's Republic of China, Japan, and the Republic of Korea, held the 23rd ASEAN Plus Three Summit via videoconference on 14 November 2020. The Summit was chaired by H.E. Nguyen Xuan Phuc, Prime Minister of Viet Nam, in his capacity as the Chair of ASEAN;

RECOGNISING that the Coronavirus Disease-2019 (COVID-19) pandemic has significantly affected the well-being, livelihood, and safety of our peoples and exerted severe pressure on the world and regional economy, bringing about serious challenges to societies and economies around the world;

UNDERLINING that complex uncertainties and challenges in the global and regional economic landscapes in recent years, coupled with the adverse impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, have posed greater risks to the multilateral trading system and regional economic and financial stability as well as reaffirming the importance of making the supply chain more resilient and sustainable in order to maintain sustainable economic activities;

EMPHASISING that robust, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth in the region serves the interests of all countries and is crucial for regional peace and stability;

ACKNOWLEDGING the urgent need for intensified and concerted efforts to address the adverse impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on economies, regional supply chains, financial markets, and human capital, and to enhance regional capacities and responsiveness to future economic and financial shocks and crises in East Asia and sustain the momentum for regional economic integration;

RECALLING the Joint Statement of the Special ASEAN Plus Three Summit on Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) on 14 April 2020, which reaffirmed the shared commitment to strengthen solidarity, enhance cooperation and mutual support among the APT countries to control and contain the spread of the pandemic, addressing the adverse impact of the

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pandemic on our societies and economies;

WELCOMING the APT Plan of Action on Mitigating the Economic Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic which was endorsed at the 23rd AEM Plus Three Consultations on 28 August 2020;

REITERATING OUR SUPPORT for the Hanoi Plan of Action on Strengthening ASEAN Economic Cooperation and Supply Chain Connectivity in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic adopted by ASEAN Leaders on 19 June 2020;

UNDERLINING the significant role of APT cooperation for peace, security, and prosperity in the East Asian region;

ENCOURAGED by the APT's inherent strengths and past achievements in economic and financial cooperation and the significant contribution of the ASEAN+3 Finance Process to enhancing regional economic and financial stability over more than two decades; and

DETERMINED to further strengthen APT cooperation for economic and financial resilience in order to better respond to future shocks and crisis situations and contribute to strong, sustainable, balanced and inclusive regional growth;

DO HEREBY DECIDE TO:

1. Strengthen joint efforts to restore economic growth in the region by enhancing regional trade and economic cooperation through, among others, addressing trade barriers, promotion of trade and investment and expansion of the fields of cooperation, and to safeguard financial stability in the region;
2. Encourage APT economic ministers, finance ministers and central bank governors and their officials to further promote cooperation, including through strengthening policy dialogue, coordination and collaboration on economic, trade and investment issues and on financial, monetary and fiscal issues of common interest;
3. Reaffirm the importance of stable energy supply for socio-economic resilience and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, and encourage cooperative efforts towards various solutions that will facilitate access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy;
4. Promote human resource development and capacity building in banking and financial sectors including through the ASEAN Plus Three Inter-Bank cooperation mechanism;
5. Continue efforts on economic and financial reforms and agree to continue working together to further enhance sustainable macroeconomic and financial policies;
6. Reaffirm commitments to further strengthening macroeconomic surveillance capacity and early warning capabilities and fostering closer regional financial cooperation and policy coordination including through strengthening the operational readiness of the Chiang Mai Initiative Multilateralisation (CMIM), the Regional Financing Arrangement

(RFA), as an effective and timely self-help mechanism and reliable layer in the Global Financial Safety Net, enhancing the capability of the ASEAN+3 Macroeconomic Research Office (AMRO) and promoting the important role of the Asian Bond Markets Initiative (ABMI), in the development of local currency bond markets, strengthening financial resilience against climate and disaster risks through supporting efforts, such as efforts of the Southeast Asia Disaster Risk Insurance Facility (SEADRIF), and further discussions to explore new initiatives in potential financial cooperation areas;

7. Keep our markets open for trade and investment and ensure smooth flow of goods and services particularly for essential goods and services such as vital medical supplies, equipment, medicines and vaccines, food and agricultural products in compliance with existing WTO rules, and ensure that critical infrastructure for trade and trading routes via air, land and sea ports remain open, for continued supply chain connectivity and resilience;
8. Task officials to ensure the full, effective, and timely implementation of the APT Plan of Action on Mitigating the Economic Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic and align efforts with the Hanoi Plan of Action on Strengthening ASEAN Economic Cooperation and Supply Chain Connectivity in Response to COVID-19 Pandemic as well as the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework;
9. Welcome initiatives, such as the Joint Study on 10+3 Cooperation for Improvement of Supply Chain Connectivity (SCC), under the existing APT framework, to strengthen efforts to stabilise manufacturing and supply chains of goods and services, and to enhance supply chain connectivity more broadly within the region and beyond, making supply chains more resilient, sustainable, and less vulnerable to future internal and external crises;
10. Encourage close coordination, especially among the Customs agencies, to continue promoting trade facilitation measures, including exploring the possibility of exchanging trade-related information among APT countries in order to facilitate customs clearances and relevant procedures at the border and reduce trade transaction costs, thus enhancing trade efficiency and competitiveness in the region;
11. Encourage close coordination in the implementation of the APT Leaders' Statement on Connecting the Connectivities Initiative adopted in 2019, including enhancing synergies between the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity 2025 and key connectivity initiatives respectively promoted by China, Japan, and the ROK, through concrete actions including but not limited to the Initial Rolling Priority Pipeline of Potential ASEAN Infrastructure Projects, through extensive consultations and joint efforts, while reaffirming the need to promote sustainable, high quality infrastructure in accordance

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- with broadly accepted international principles in order to strengthen regional connectivity for supply chain resilience and sustainability;
12. Enhance efforts to effectively utilise the ASEAN Plus Three Emergency Rice Reserve (APTERR) to overcome possible food shortages and help ensure food security in the region during emergencies, and mitigate the impact of COVID-19 pandemic;
 13. Encourage exchange of information on production and trade of essential medical supplies to facilitate the implementation of the ASEAN Regional Reserve of Medical Supplies for Public Health Emergencies and expedite efforts towards setting up an APT reserve of essential medical supplies;
 14. Continue to strengthen engagement with stakeholders such as the private sector by having them as significant partners in strengthening regional supply chains, to instill investment confidence, promote business opportunities, and strengthen supply chain connectivity;
 15. Encourage close cooperation to support the private sector and facilitate the development of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), vulnerable groups, business start-ups and economic sectors, adversely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, including through leveraging technologies and digital innovations, which can collectively contribute to the efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals;
 16. Encourage the maintenance of necessary interconnectedness in the region by facilitating to the extent possible the essential movement of people, including business travels, while ensuring the safeguarding of public health in line with our efforts to combat the pandemic;
 17. Embrace the opportunities brought about by the Fourth Industrial Revolution and digital transformation to mitigate productivity loss amid travel and movement restrictions during and after the pandemic, and promote the development of the digital economy, that is secure, sustainable, open and transformative, including through (i) addressing the digital divide; (ii) introducing smart working solutions; (iii) strengthening cooperation on smart cities, e-commerce, health care, and intelligent manufacturing; (iv) facilitating cross-border transfer of information and data by electronic means, as well as strengthening consumer and business trust while respecting both domestic and international legal frameworks; and (v) stimulating innovation as a new driving force for economic development and competitiveness, along with strengthened cooperation to mitigate cyber threats, prevent and counter malicious cyber activities, towards a safe, secure and resilient rules-based cyberspace;
 18. Reaffirm strong commitment to uphold an open, inclusive, transparent and rules-based multilateral trading system, as embodied in the World Trade Organisation (WTO),

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including supporting the necessary reform of the WTO, and underscore the importance of multilateralism and further promote greater intra-regional trade and investment, the full utilisation of ASEAN Plus One FTA with China, and the Republic of Korea as well as the ASEAN-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership;

19. Welcome the signing of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Agreement in 2020 as part of efforts to achieve a higher level of regional economic integration and cooperation, and reiterate that the RCEP remains open for India;
20. Further strengthen the roles and maximise the potentials of the ASEAN-China Centre, the ASEAN-Japan Centre and the ASEAN-Korea Centre in promoting business, tourism, trade and investment cooperation among the APT countries; and
21. Leverage the expertise and support offered by international organisations, multilateral and regional development banks and research institutions in addressing the socio-economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, including through the promotion of more resilient and connected supply chains as well as a robust, sustainable, comprehensive, and resilient economic recovery.

ADOPTED on the Fourteenth of November in the Year Two Thousand and Twenty.

ASEAN Plus Three Leaders' Statement on Cooperation on Mental Health Amongst Adolescents and Young Children

Brunei Daeussalam, 27 October 2021

WE, the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the People's Republic of China, Japan, and the Republic of Korea, held the 24th ASEAN Plus Three Summit via videoconference on 27 October 2021. The Summit was chaired by His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam;

REAFFIRM our commitments to the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG target 3.4, which aims to reduce by one third premature mortality rates from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and well-being, while reiterating that mental disorders are significant contributors to the global burden of diseases and on the quality of life;

REITERATE our support to the UN Secretary-General's message for World Mental Health Day in 2020, which highlighted that depression is now recognised as a leading cause of illness and disability amongst children and adolescents, and that swift collective action is necessary to ensure quality mental health care is available to all in need, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic;

WELCOME the World Health Organization (WHO) Special Initiative for Mental Health (2019-2023): Universal Health Coverage for Mental Health which contributes towards the SDGs and a vision where everyone can obtain the highest standard of mental health and well-being; which aligns with the updated WHO Comprehensive Mental Health Action Plan 2013-2030, aiming at scaling-up mental health care as part of the universal health coverage and leaving no one behind, and further welcome efforts by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in responding to the mental health impacts of COVID-19 on children, adolescents and youth;

REITERATE our support for ASEAN efforts in realising an ASEAN Community that is people-oriented, people-centred and socially-responsible with a view to achieving enduring solidarity and unity among the peoples and Member States of ASEAN, and forging a common identity

and building a caring and sharing society which is inclusive and where the well-being, livelihood, and welfare of the peoples are enhanced, in-line with Brunei Darussalam's ASEAN Chairmanship priorities and deliverables under the theme of "We Care, We Prepare, We Prosper";

REITERATE that the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Blueprint 2025 promotes a healthy, caring, sustainable and productive community that practices healthy lifestyle resilient to health threats and universal access to health care;

UNDERScore the importance of addressing mental health issues reflected in the 2013 Bandar Seri Begawan Declaration on Noncommunicable Diseases in ASEAN, and the 2016 ASEAN Mental Health Systems Report, among others;

ACKNOWLEDGE that Promotion of Mental Health is identified as one of the health priorities under the ASEAN Post-2015 Health Development Agenda, which among others, promotes sharing of effective models and practices on mental health programmes and interventions among ASEAN Member States, and the scaling up of integration of mental health programmes in primary and secondary levels of care;

RECOGNISE that mental health conditions account for 16% of global burden of disease and injury amongst young people between the age of 10 to 19 years, where an estimated 10 – 20% of adolescents worldwide experience mental health conditions. Half of all mental disorders in adulthood start by age 14. And yet most cases remain undiagnosed and undertreated and for many, continue into adulthood, impairing both their physical and mental health, and limiting their opportunities to lead fulfilling lives;

EMPHASISE our strong determination and resoluteness to enhance close international cooperation and effective multilateral mechanism in mitigating mental health issues, through encouragement and involvement of every country in the region to take cost- effective measures, not only on raising awareness but also reducing stigma related to mental health issues and addressing the needs and rights of adolescents with defined mental health conditions.

We hereby undertake the following to further strengthen preventive actions in alleviating the negative impacts of mental health on the society and economy in the region:

1. **Encourage** the APT countries to strengthen universal health coverage further by ensuring basic mental health care services and psychosocial support that are affordable and accessible in order to protect and promote the mental health and well-being of people, especially amongst vulnerable people, adolescents and young children in accordance with national capabilities and circumstances;
2. **Strengthen efforts** through the APT mechanism in promoting awareness on mental health, ameliorate stigmatisation of mental illnesses and offer emotional and

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psychological support, as well as enhance social well-being of those with mental health issues;

3. **Call** for more collaborative initiatives amongst APT countries, that aim to address mental health issues and suicide prevention, particularly amongst adolescents and young persons, and increase efforts to limit the effects of mental health issues from being further exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic and other public health emergencies, that had by default created new barriers for those already suffering from mental illness;
4. **Encourage and support** cooperation and alignment of actions, at various levels, including grass-roots level and digital space, and across various sectors, including, but not limited to, education, child protection and family support, that would enhance and support dissemination of the right health information, social innovation and community outreach programmes, research and capacity building initiatives related to mental health among ASEAN Member States and its external partners; and,
5. **Support** the conduct of a regional workshop amongst APT Member States on sharing of best practices on Mental Health Promotion in school settings including school curriculum and introducing mental health education amongst school children as well as discussing effective ways of delivering relevant health messages.

ADOPTED on the Twenty-Seventh Day of October in the Year Two Thousand and Twenty-One.

V. Other Documents



V. Other Documents

TOWARDS AN EAST ASIAN COMMUNITY

Region of Peace, Prosperity and Progress

East Asia Vision Group Report 2001

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

East Asia is quickly becoming a distinctive and crucial region in the world. In the new millennium, irrevocable trends including globalization, the information revolution, and growing interdependence among regions present East Asia with new challenges and opportunities for regional collaboration.

In particular, the Asian financial crisis of the recent past provided a strong impetus to strengthen regional cooperation. It has spurred the recognition that East Asia needs to institutionalize its cooperation to pre-empt or solve similar problems that may arise.

The East Asian Vision Group thus wishes to create a vision that would inspire East Asian peoples and governments to work towards building an 'East Asian community' that will address the region's future challenges and advance mutual understanding and trust.

The Vision Group envisions East Asia moving from a region of nations to a bona fide regional community where collective efforts are made for peace, prosperity and progress. The economic field, including trade, investment, and finance, is expected to serve as the catalyst in this community-building process.

The East Asian community will be based on cooperation and openness. It will be pursued with the purpose of contributing to what is good not only for the region but also for the world.

In proposing the formation of an East Asian community, we seek the following goals:

- Preventing conflict and promoting peace among the nations of East Asia;
- Achieving closer economic cooperation in such areas as trade, investment, finance, and development;
- Advancing human security in particular by facilitating regional efforts for

- environmental protection and good governance;
- Bolstering common prosperity by enhancing cooperation in education and human resources development; and
- Fostering the identity of an East Asian community.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

The Vision Group makes the following key recommendations for the realization of the East Asian community:

Economic Cooperation

- Establishment of the East Asian Free Trade Area (EAFTA) and liberalization of trade well ahead of the APEC Bogor Goal.
- Expansion of the Framework Agreement on an ASEAN Investment Area to all of East Asia.
- Promotion of developmental and technological cooperation among regional countries, particularly to provide assistance to less developed countries.
- Realization of a knowledge-based economy and the establishment of a future-oriented economic structure.

Financial Cooperation

- Establishment of a self-help regional facility for financial cooperation.
- Adoption of a better exchange rate coordination mechanism consistent with both financial stability and economic development.
- Strengthening of the regional monitoring and surveillance process within East Asia to supplement IMF global surveillance and Article VI consultation measures.

Political and Security Cooperation

- Promotion of norms, procedures and mechanisms for good management of intra-regional relations on the basis of neighborliness, mutual trust and solidarity.
- Establishing and strengthening of mechanisms for addressing threats to peace in the region.
- Broadening of political cooperation with respect to national governance issues.
- Amplification of the East Asian voice in international affairs and expansion of the region's contribution to the process of creating and evolving a new global order.

Environmental Cooperation

- Institutionalizing bilateral and multilateral environmental cooperation within the region, as well as at the global level.
- Enhancement of public information and education in environment issues, and involvement of NGOs in the process.

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- Ensuring more effective management of water and fisheries and combating of marine pollution.
- Joint development and exploration of new sources and supplies of energy within the region and embarking on efficient use of energy.

Social and Cultural Cooperation

- Establishment of poverty alleviation programs, where richer countries help the less-developed fight poverty, illiteracy and disease.
- Adoption of programs to provide greater access to basic healthcare services.
- Implementation of a comprehensive human resource development program, focusing on the improvement of basic education, skills training and capacity building.
- Promotion of regional identity and consciousness, and cooperation on projects in the conservation and promotion of East Asian arts and culture.
- Establishment of an East Asia Education Fund to promote basic education, literacy programs, and skills training in the region.

Institutional Cooperation

- Evolution of the annual summit meetings of ASEAN+3 into the East Asian Summit.
- Establishment of an East Asia Forum, consisting of the region's governmental and non-governmental representatives from various sectors, with the aim to serve as an institutional mechanism for broad-based social exchanges and, ultimately, regional cooperation.

INTRODUCTION

What is the Vision?

1. **We, the people of East Asia, aspire to create an East Asian community of peace, prosperity and progress based on the full development of all peoples in the region. Concurrent with this vision is the goal that the future East Asian community will make a positive contribution to the rest of the world.**
2. For *regional peace*, we must cooperate to promote a stable and cooperative security environment based on mutual trust and respect. In the interest of *common prosperity*, we must promote trade, investments and financial cooperation. We should also be mindful of disparities in socio-economic development, educational attainment and technological advancement within the region. For *human progress*, we must improve governance, strengthen basic rights and advance quality of life.
3. The Vision Group envisions East Asia moving from a region of nations to a bona fide regional community with shared challenges, common aspirations, and a parallel destiny. The economic field, including trade, investment, and finance, is expected to serve as the catalyst in the comprehensive community-building process.

Why an East Asian Community?

4. East Asia is quickly becoming a distinctive and crucial region of the world. In the new millennium, irrevocable trends such as globalization, the information revolution, and growing interdependence among nations will present East Asia with new challenges and opportunities for regional collaboration.
5. In the past, political rivalries, historical animosities, cultural differences and ideological confrontation posed barriers to cooperation among East Asian nations. Disparities in stages of development, trade and economic policies, and financial and legal frameworks have also impeded closer economic cooperation. In the social and cultural realms, significant poverty and illiteracy still plague the lives of millions in the region.
6. However, East Asian nations share geographical proximity, many common historical experiences, and similar cultural norms and values. The region has nations that are endowed with abundant skilled labor, entrepreneurs, natural resources, capital, and advanced technology. Our many common challenges and complementary resources call for mutually beneficial cooperation and exchanges, not only in the economic realm, but also in the political, security, environmental, social, cultural, and educational arenas.
7. Globalization of the world economy, together with the trend towards regional trading blocs, brings new challenges such as the need to define global standards, harmonize

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regulations, and engage in multilateral trade negotiations. These issues call for more deliberate regional cooperation and coordination as well as a united voice to advance the region's common interests.

8. In particular, the Asian financial crisis of the recent past has provided a strong impetus to strengthen regional cooperation. This has given rise to the recognition that East Asia needs to institutionalize its cooperation to solve similar problems and prevent new ones.
9. Given the historical legacy and future potential for rivalries and competition among East Asian nations, it is important to avoid the risk of future war in the region. We need to devise and institute mechanisms and practices to prevent conflicts, and manage them effectively when they arise.
10. East Asia lacks an institutional framework for region-wide dialogue and cooperation. There is a growing awareness among East Asian countries of the need for a framework at the regional level to manage the dynamic changes ahead.
11. The Vision Group thus seeks to promote a vision that would inspire East Asian peoples and governments to work towards building an East Asian community with a view to addressing the region's future challenges and to advancing mutual understanding and trust.
12. In proposing the formation of an East Asian community, we have the following goals in mind:
 - To prevent conflict and promote peace among the nations of East Asia;
 - To promote trade, investment, finance, and development in the region;
 - To advance human security and well-being, in particular by facilitating regional efforts for environmental protection and good governance;
 - To bolster common prosperity by enhancing cooperation in education and human resources development; and
 - To foster the identity of an East Asian community by encouraging active exchanges and regular dialogues at both the governmental and non-governmental levels.

Guiding Principles

13. **Shared Identity** – Together we shall develop a shared regional identity by working to galvanize the aspirations of our peoples, promote greater trust and confidence, and advance common interests so as to foster a new sense of regional community.
14. **Economic Cooperation as the Catalyst** – We expect cooperation in the economic field, in particular, trade, investment, and finance, to serve as the catalyst in the comprehensive community-building process.
15. **People Focus** – We recognize that human resources are our strongest assets:

hardworking, education-minded, thrifty, and enterprising peoples are the backbone of our economic success. Their security, welfare and happiness are our ultimate goal. We shall develop our human resources with a particular focus on the young of East Asia.

16. **Inclusiveness** – Our efforts must involve the active participation of and partnership across the different sectors and strata of society. We need the commitment of not only the governments, but also the civil society sectors.
17. **International Norms** – Our efforts must be guided by respect for internationally accepted principles and norms of inter-state relations, including mutual respect for international law, good neighborliness, and equality among countries.
18. **Regional Thinking** – While respecting the principle of national sovereignty, the overall mechanism for regional cooperation should be based on regional thinking and the welfare of all East Asians.
19. **Progressive Institutionalization** – Our vision can best be realized with the support of suitable institutions; organizational capacity is crucial for effective formulation and implementation of programs. We must, however, avoid duplication of the work of other related organizations and regional frameworks and instead complement their contributions.
20. **Harmony with the Global System** – Our regional community shall be outward- looking and open to the rest of the world. While we propose programs for regional cooperation, we must be active in pursuing our global linkages and making contributions to international peace and development efforts. Regional cooperation should be consistent with the broader global frameworks.

AGENDA FOR COOPERATION

I. ECONOMIC COOPERATION

21. **The Vision Group envisions the progressive integration of the East Asian economy, ultimately leading to an East Asian economic community. The Vision Group thus recommends that East Asia pursue the objective of economic integration through the liberalization of trade and investment, developmental and technological cooperation, and information technology (IT) development.**
22. Globalization of the world economy is an irreversible trend that characterizes the economic environment of today and tomorrow. Open international trade and investment will be a key force for sustaining economic growth in East Asia and the global economy as a whole.
23. Growing regionalism elsewhere has created the need for East Asia to pay more attention to securing regional common interests in the multilateral trading arena. Economic integration in East Asia should lead to the reaping of the fruits of liberalization while promoting a cohesive response to new challenges in the global economy.
24. Economic integration in East Asia is already under way. With intra-regional trade and investment increasing at unprecedented levels, economic interdependence within the region has become the foundation for future growth. In addition, there are signs of further institutional economic integration in the region.
25. The political commitment to economic cooperation is already in place. The leaders of ASEAN+3 at the Manila summit in November 1999 agreed on broad economic cooperation and mandated their economic ministers to oversee the implementation of the cooperation process on a regular basis.
26. The Vision Group envisages that the private sector would contribute significantly to the region's economic prosperity and integration process. The Vision Group therefore **recommends the formation of an East Asia Business Council representing small and medium enterprises and multi-national corporations in the region.**

Trade

27. Regional integration leads to more intra-regional trade, greater welfare gains and more resources to member economies. Once East Asia is represented as a single entity in international society, the member countries can secure their interests more effectively and contribute more actively to the global economy.
28. The Vision Group **recommends the formation of an East Asia Free Trade Area (EAFTA) and liberalization of trade well ahead of the Bogor Goal set by APEC.** In

order to facilitate the formation of a region-wide FTA, East Asia needs to consolidate all existing bilateral and sub-regional FTAs within the region. We **recommend the establishment of a ministerial committee to oversee the development of an EAFTA.**

29. The Vision Group also emphasizes that the regional integration arrangement should be consistent with World Trade Organization (WTO) agreements so as to reinforce the multilateral trading system.
30. The Vision Group calls for the EAFTA to be designed in such a way that will benefit all member economies. We also **recommend the establishment of GSP status and preferential treatment for the least developed countries in the region.**

Investment

31. Acknowledging that the free flow of investment facilitates trade and helps sustain economic growth, the Vision Group urges East Asian countries to foster an attractive investment environment that ensures increased FDI flows within and into the region. This investment environment includes sound macroeconomic fundamentals, transparent and nondiscriminatory legal systems, sensible policy regulations, as well as skilled human resources.
32. The Vision Group **calls for the establishment of an East Asian Investment Information Network to stimulate intra-regional investment and to improve the transparency of investment-related regulations.** Furthermore, the Vision Group recommends promoting investment by SMEs and establishing an appropriate administrative and financial support system.
33. The Vision Group **recommends the establishment of an East Asia Investment Area (EAIA) by expanding the Framework Agreement on ASEAN Investment Area (AIA) to cover East Asia as a whole.**

Developmental and Technological Cooperation

34. Developmental and technological cooperation is vital for sharing prosperity among all nations in the region. The Vision Group believes that East Asian countries can benefit from this type of cooperation in a short period of time.
35. The Vision Group **calls for the joint development of resources and infrastructure for growth areas in the region and the expansion of financial resources for development.** Active participation of the private sector should be encouraged.
36. The Vision Group recommends that concerted efforts be made to narrow development gaps among East Asian countries for the region's common prosperity and dynamic and sustained growth. In this regard, the Vision Group **urges that greater cooperation and assistance be extended to countries at lower levels of development in three**

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priority areas: infrastructure, information technology and human resources development.

37. The Vision Group recognizes the need for increased official development assistance (ODA) to less developed economies in the region to help narrow the economic gap.
38. The Vision Group **recommends that technological cooperation be pursued through technology transfers and joint technology development.** The Vision Group also urges East Asian governments to promote more active FDI and stronger strategic alliances in the region, starting with identifying feasible areas of technological cooperation.
39. The Vision Group **encourages private companies to exchange technology on a commercial basis.** We also recognize the need to promote free transfer of government-owned technology in support of less developed areas in the region.

New Economy

40. The development of new technologies such as information technology (IT), biotechnology, genetically modified organisms (GMO), and nano-technology creates new industries and enhances the efficiency of traditional industries by creating new trade opportunities and increasing productivity. The Vision Group recommends common efforts for the realization of a knowledge-based economy and the establishment of a future-oriented economic structure through cooperation in these new technologies. The Vision Group **recommends the creation of a large pool of well-educated, adaptable and innovative human resources in the New Economy.**
41. The Vision Group recommends the joint development of information technology to build telecommunications infrastructure and to provide greater access to the Internet at reduced costs to users.
42. Priority should be given to narrowing the digital divide among and within nations. The Vision Group recommends developing dialogues among East Asian countries on information technology and **jointly creating an 'East Asian Internet Project,'** with the help of the private sector, to provide technical assistance for the development of information technology in less-developed East Asian countries.
43. To further improve the IT infrastructure in East Asia, the Vision Group recommends the following:
 - i) **Trans-East Asian Information Superhighway** with high-speed data transmission over fiber optic cables and regional telecommunications connections with essential regional network management and end-to-end coordination.
 - ii) **Regional Software Technology Development and Multimedia Content Centers** with joint research and joint ventures in developing new solutions as well

as new software applications for East Asian Internet and e-commerce.

- iii) **East Asian Venture Capital Network** to create a financial environment that would nourish Internet startups as well as strengthen East Asian capacity in IT skill development.
- iv) **Harmonization of Internet and e-commerce issues** such as protection of intellectual property, privacy, curbs on Internet pornography, a tax framework and other legal infrastructure in order to build the foundations of the Internet economy.

II. FINANCIAL COOPERATION

- 44. **To enhance financial stability and economic efficiency in East Asia, the Vision Group proposes that East Asian governments adopt a staged, two-track approach towards greater financial integration: one track for establishing a self-help financing arrangement and the other for coordinating a suitable exchange rate mechanism among countries in the region.**
- 45. The Asian financial crisis of the recent past revealed the vulnerability of East Asian countries to shocks arising from the globalization of financial markets and massive capital flows. It has demonstrated that East Asian countries urgently need to establish sound and stable domestic financial systems, good corporate governance and prudent macroeconomic policies. At the regional level, the financial crisis further highlighted the need for some form of institutional arrangement to prevent such crises, and to manage those that occur more effectively.
- 46. The Vision Group noted the progress made by ASEAN and the Manila Framework countries by having officials meet regularly to exchange views on macroeconomic development in member countries. The Vision Group also welcomes the achievements made so far by ASEAN+3 on the financial and monetary issues of regional interest, including the 'Joint Statement on East Asian Cooperation' adopted in November 1999, the 'Chiang Mai Initiative' of May 2000, and the finance ministers' meeting in Honolulu in May 2001.

Regional Financing Arrangements

- 47. Looking ahead from what has been achieved in regional financing arrangements, the Vision Group **proposes that steps be taken toward the establishment of a full-fledged regional financing facility such as the East Asian Arrangement to Borrow or an East Asian Monetary Fund.** Such a facility should have conditionality that best fits the nature of a crisis, would be supplementary to the IMF, and would serve as a kind of safety net, acting as a regional lender of last resort working in collaboration with the IMF and other international facilities.

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48. The monitoring and surveillance process is the bedrock on which the regional financing facility should rest. Such a process, properly developed and implemented, would provide early warning to prevent a financial crisis. It would also provide prompt and relevant information for assessing the financing needs of members requesting assistance and the potential contagion to other member countries. The Vision Group therefore **recommends strengthening the regional monitoring and surveillance process within East Asia, which would supplement the IMF's global surveillance and Article IV consultation.**

Regional Exchange Rate Coordination

49. The Vision Group **recommends that East Asian countries work out in stages an appropriate exchange rate regime consistent with not only financial stability but also economic development.** Flexible but stable exchange rates are more compatible with long-term steady economic development than a pure float.
50. An anchor for such a flexible but more stable exchange rate regime would be real effective exchange rates consistent with economic fundamentals. Such a regime will help prevent exchange rate fluctuations from getting too large but at the same time accommodate some volatility of international capital movements. The use by individual countries of an effective exchange rate as an anchor suggests that a multiple currency basket will be more appropriate than a single currency dominant basket.
51. Greater regional integration of both international trade and finance will require increasingly closer cooperation in both macroeconomic policies and exchange rate alignment. In view of the large diversity among the East Asian economies today, the region could launch an official forum to exchange views on macroeconomic and financial sector policies through strengthening the aforementioned surveillance process.
52. As intra-regional trade continues to grow rapidly, the exchange rates of East Asian countries are likely to move more closely with one another. The Vision Group, therefore, **calls for a more closely coordinated regional exchange rate mechanism.** Such a mechanism will require much closer macroeconomic policy coordination on the monetary and fiscal policy fronts.
53. In the long run, the Vision Group envisages the possibility of East Asia evolving into a common currency area, if and when economic, political, social and other linkages develop to a point where tighter forms of monetary integration become feasible and desirable.

III. POLITICAL & SECURITY COOPERATION

54. **The Vision Group envisions a peaceful, stable and cooperative East Asian**

community free from armed conflict, violence and hostilities, whether internal or external. Promoting political and security cooperation is vital to deal with threats to peace and other regional security problems.

55. The global security environment and the institutions for global governance have undergone drastic changes since the end of the Cold War. East Asian countries must be more effectively engaged in and make their own significant contribution to the process of creating and evolving a new global order.
56. We need to address traditional as well as new challenges to peace and security. Territorial and maritime disputes, border problems, competition for resources, transnational crimes and international terrorism are common challenges that require joint or cooperative responses.

Overall Management of Intra-regional Relations

57. The principal goal of political cooperation in East Asia is to promote neighborliness, mutual trust, and solidarity among countries in the region. Disputes shall be addressed through peaceful means and on the basis of mutual respect.
58. **East Asian countries should adopt and actively implement a code of conduct to help govern relations among them, including universally accepted principles of international law, respect for sovereignty, peaceful coexistence, renunciation of the use of force, and equality.** The UN Charter and the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia can serve as a basis for regional cooperation in East Asian peace and security.
59. **East Asian countries should develop and observe effective rules and procedures to guide cooperation, including the principle of reaching agreement through consultation, voluntary implementation, non- confrontation, sensitivity to concerns of affected states, and the creation of dispute settlement mechanisms.**
60. The Vision Group **calls for the evolution of the annual summit meetings of ASEAN+3 into the East Asian Summit.** We also **recommend institutionalization of regional dialogues** including regular meetings of foreign ministers and leaders of other sectors on the range of political and security-related subjects.

Cooperation for Regional Peace and Security

61. East Asian governments should work together to enhance mutual trust and assurance. The Vision Group **urges a continuous process of confidence- building among countries of the region, especially exchanges, consultations, and other cooperative activities** (e.g. cross training of military personnel, joint training, and information tours) **among military and defense officials.**
62. **East Asian governments should cooperate to establish and implement**

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effective measures for the prevention and avoidance of conflict, as well as for management of tensions within the region. Communications channels should be in place to enable governments to acknowledge and prevent the emergence of new security problems.

63. The Vision Group **urges governments in the region to strengthen the ASEAN Regional Forum so that it can serve as a more effective mechanism for cooperative security.**
64. With the aim of increasing the East Asian role in global peacekeeping, **governments in the region should cooperate towards agreement on the region's peacekeeping objectives.**
65. **East Asian nations should intensify consultations and strengthen mechanisms for cooperation on combating piracy, drug trafficking, illegal migration, smuggling of small arms, money laundering, cyber crime, international terrorism and other issues affecting human security.** In particular, mechanisms to stem the tide of piracy, and drug and human trafficking should be urgently set up.
66. Sub-regional security dialogues shall be encouraged where appropriate. Such dialogues involving smaller groups of countries may lead to agreements among them with respect to their common security concerns.

Regional Political Cooperation

67. The Vision Group envisions that East Asian countries shall promote peace, stability, social justice, social harmony, respect for the rule of law, accountability and democratic progress as desirable common goals in their respective national polities. Creating a new Asia and amplifying the Asian voice in international affairs require a far-sighted vision and the combined commitment of East Asian governments to bring it to reality.
68. The Vision Group **recommends that East Asian nations cooperate and exchange best practices in addressing common problems in governance** such as reducing corruption, undertaking legal reform, and achieving transparency, responsiveness and efficiency in the bureaucracy.
69. East Asian governments shall promote bilateral as well as multilateral exchanges among political and legislative leaders and various social groups such as business, labor unions, the media, academics, youths, non- governmental organizations, and other civil society groups. The Vision Group also **recommends that a network of East Asian think tanks be established to explore long-term policy issues of strategic importance to the region.**

IV. ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY COOPERATION

70. **The Vision Group proposes an environmentally friendly and sustainable East Asia. It calls upon leaders to strengthen and increase efforts towards institutionalizing environmental and energy cooperation in the region.** This requires the acceptance by governments, individuals, businesses, and organizations in various fields of the responsibility to exert common efforts for the protection and improvement of the environment for present and future generations.
71. Environmental issues have led to regional disputes from time to time. On the other hand, transnational ecological problems, including global warming, depletion of biodiversity, and issues associated with genetically modified organisms (GMO), provide strong incentives for collective environmental cooperation within the East Asian region.
72. The Vision Group underlines the need to preserve the rich and diversified natural resources in East Asia. At the same time, it calls for closer collaboration in research and development in East Asia to utilize wisely these resources for the well being of all our peoples.

Regional Environmental Cooperation

73. The Vision Group **urges governments in the region to engage actively in the establishment of a comprehensive East Asian environmental cooperative body, which includes a dispute settlement mechanism and a regional environmental database.** The Vision Group believes that such efforts will address transnational environmental problems by strengthening regional institutional and legislative frameworks, developing regional environmental networks, and enhancing policy-making capacities.
74. To increase synergy among the various bodies for environmental cooperation, the Vision Group **proposes that an East Asian Environment Ministers' Meeting be organized periodically for the coordination of regional environmental projects.**
75. The Vision Group **proposes that East Asian nations cooperate to install air pollution control equipment in order to reduce greenhouse gas emission.** Measures should also be taken to prevent trans-boundary pollution such as a 'brown problem' (e.g. forest fires in Southeast Asia), 'yellow problem' (e.g. yellow dust and acid rain in Northeast Asia), and 'blue problem' (e.g. the Mekong river).
76. The Vision Group recognizes the importance of sustainable agricultural practices that will help minimize land erosion, land encroachment, and deforestation. Food security and efficient land use management should also be promoted. The Vision Group recommends that the East Asian governments pursue greater coordination and cooperation in food, agriculture and forestry and, in particular, the establishment of

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regional agricultural information networking.

77. **East Asian governments should pursue joint programs for the conservation of forests and reforestation in the region. They should also try to enhance regional capabilities to prevent and manage natural disasters, especially floods, droughts, and forest fires.**
78. The Vision Group calls on leaders of East Asian nations to formulate a joint action plan for sustainable environmental management in the entire region. Furthermore, the Vision Group **urges the industrialized countries in the region to provide both financial and technical assistance to other member countries to facilitate the effective implementation of the action plan.**
79. The Vision Group **urges that East Asian governments facilitate exchanges to address urban development concerns**, particularly in relation to the environmental hazards and deteriorating quality of life resulting from overcrowding and pollution.
80. Educating the public about the significance of environmental issues is crucial for advancing environmental policies and promoting environmentally friendly economic and industrial development. The Vision Group thus **proposes that governments in the region introduce environmental education at the early stages of school curriculum.**
81. Empowering local communities to seek and find their own solutions and resources is a key element to sustainable environment. The Vision Group thus **urges East Asian governments to encourage the development of regional environmental networks, particularly through the creation and expansion of community programs at the grassroots level.**
82. The Vision Group urges that governments in the region work together towards bilateral and multilateral environmental cooperation within the region, as well as at the global level, by institutionalizing their collaborative efforts. The Vision Group also **emphasizes the need for East Asia to take concerted actions in international forums to ensure effective implementation of all multilateral agreements on environmental cooperation and protection**, including the Kyoto Protocol on global warming.

Water Resource Management

83. Demographic change along with improved economic conditions in East Asia has put pressures on both the limited and renewable resources, especially water and fisheries. The Vision Group thus **calls for joint endeavors to ensure more effective water resources management throughout the East Asian Region.**
84. Marine pollution is a serious trans-boundary environmental problem facing the region. The Vision Group welcomes the Steering Committee for the Yellow Sea Large Marine

Ecosystem (YSLME) project and the Northwest Pacific Action Program (NOWPAP) in Northeast Asia, and **calls for closer regional marine environmental cooperation for the entire region.**

Energy Cooperation

85. Regional energy security, both in terms of supply and price, needs to be maintained. The region's over-reliance on external sources for oil can have serious implications on the security of its energy supply. The region must jointly develop and explore new sources and supplies of energy within the region, and promote the efficient use of energy. Similarly, comprehensive and systematic efforts must be made in order to ensure stable oil prices that are acceptable to both the exporting and importing countries.
86. Research and development should be stimulated for the exploration of alternative sources of cleaner energy, including renewable energy generation. Given the drawbacks of fossil fuels, East Asian countries **should cooperate for the development of solar, wind, hydroelectric and nuclear fusion energy.** There should be more cooperative regional efforts to establish renewable energy generation systems.
87. The Vision Group **recommends that East Asian governments establish regional nuclear cooperation arrangements that promote the peaceful and safe use of nuclear energy.**
88. The Vision Group **calls for a framework to help the region develop a broad regional consensus for energy policies and strategies both for the short and long term.** In addition, the Group **urges that common action plans, such as the proposed trans-ASEAN energy network project, be formulated by the countries in the region for the implementation of the agreed policies and strategies.** The electrification and energy needs of the rural population deserve special attention as an area of regional cooperation.

V. SOCIAL, CULTURAL AND EDUCATIONAL COOPERATION

89. **The Vision Group envisions a socially connected, educationally advanced, and culturally vibrant East Asian community which can effectively deal with the problems of poverty, illiteracy, and disease. The Vision Group proposes that East Asian nations espouse the values of social justice and human security and take region-wide initiatives to improve the lives of all East Asians.**
90. **The Vision Group recommends that region-wide poverty alleviation programs, healthcare programs, and literacy and educational advancement campaigns be instituted.**

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91. The Vision Group proposes a three-pronged approach: social programs, cultural exchanges, and educational cooperation. These programs will promote equity among and empowerment of the East Asian peoples and equip the countries in the region to build more peaceful, stable, and prosperous societies and communities.

Social Programs

92. East Asia has experienced rapid economic growth and transformation during the past decades. However, there are costs of rapid growth – widening income disparity, urban congestion, social dislocations, and eroding cultural traditions. Poverty, illiteracy, and disease still plague the lives of millions in the region. Programs to attack these social ills will improve the lives and livelihoods of many in this region.
93. Common prosperity in East Asia must be built on more equitable and fair societies and on enlightened and empowered citizenries. The Vision Group therefore **recommends that East Asian countries review and address different forms of inequality and prejudice that may affect their respective societies**, including those between the rich and poor, between the educated and illiterate, between genders, between different ethnic and religious communities, and between different generations of their citizens.
94. The Vision Group **urges the richer countries to make significant contributions to help less-developed nations fight poverty, illiteracy, and disease**. It also advocates that national governments do more for their poor, illiterate, and citizens stricken or threatened with disease. The Hanoi Plan of Action on social safety nets can serve as a model for East Asia to protect the most vulnerable sectors.
95. Disease degrades human capital, an important resource to support future national development. Healthcare programs are a powerful tool for enriching lives and uplifting communities. The Vision Group **urges East Asian nations to take concerted steps to expand and improve access to basic healthcare, particularly for at-risk groups**. The spread of HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other communicable diseases must be brought swiftly under control.
96. The Vision Group **recommends the establishment of an East Asia Forum, consisting of the region's governmental and non-governmental representatives from various sectors**, with the aim to serve as an institutional mechanism for broad-based social exchanges and, ultimately, regional cooperation.
97. The role of unofficial actors in social programs, including NGOs, has in many societies become as important as that of official actors such as governments and international organizations. The Vision Group **calls for East Asian governments to work closely with NGOs in policy consultation and coordination to encourage civic participation and responsibility and to promote state-civil society partnerships in**

tackling social problems.

Cultural and Educational Programs

98. The Vision Group **urges governments of the region to work together with their respective cultural and educational institutions to promote a strong sense of regional identity and an East Asian consciousness.** Such work may be done through active social and cultural exchanges involving different sectors of society. Scholars and historians are especially encouraged to engage in collaborative projects that will help broaden appreciation of East Asian history, civilization and culture.
99. The East Asia Vision Group **recommends the promotion of networking and exchanges of experts in the conservation of the arts, artifacts and cultural heritage.** Youth participation in such programs is important in order to foster appreciation, respect and understanding of the rich and diverse heritage of East Asian cultures and traditions.
100. **The promotion of East Asian studies in the region is necessary** in order to achieve mutual trust and understanding lasting many generations. To this end, we recommend that: i) key universities in the region be encouraged to set up East Asian studies programs focusing on the study of history, languages, cultures and contemporary society of the region; ii) these East Asian studies programs be organized into an East Asian Studies Network that will undertake research, exchanges and other projects on subjects relevant to contemporary East Asian development; and iii) one university be designated and supported as the Network Secretariat, tasked to serve as an information resource center as well as to coordinate projects.
101. A comprehensive 'Human Resource Development Program for East Asia' may be drawn up on the basis of existing programs, focusing on the improvement of basic education, skills training and capacity building to help the workforce adapt to a changing environment. To promote educational advancement and scholarship, the Vision Group **recommends that an East Asia Education Fund be established to support basic education, literacy programs and skills training.** This Fund will also provide scholarships for students to pursue higher education in East Asian universities.

CONCLUSION

102. At the dawn of the new millennium, we recognize both the need and opportunity to build a regional community—an East Asian community of *peace, prosperity and progress*.
103. Cooperation through community-building will enable East Asian nations to cope with the economic, social and political challenges the region faces today, while preparing the peoples of East Asia for a safer, richer and more secure life in the future.

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104. The time for building an East Asian community is opportune. With strong geographical, historical, and cultural bonds, the nations in East Asia have been actively seeking common ground for regional cooperation. New global trends such as globalization and regional interdependence also facilitate East Asian cooperative efforts.
105. Much time and effort will be required to bring this vision of a full-fledged East Asian community to reality. While the pace of building an East Asian community is uncertain, the direction is clear and the trend currently underway is irreversible. We shall develop our regional identity, apply our talents and resources to common goals, and build new institutions for peace, prosperity, and progress.
106. **Ultimately, a vision for East Asia should be based on cooperation and openness. It should seek to expand understanding, agreement and coordination among regional countries on important international issues, with a view to enhancing our ability to contribute to what is good not only for the region but also for the world.**
107. **The East Asian community, we submit, is our best hope for the future as a region. As our mission and contribution to the rest of humanity, we must begin to take concrete steps to realize this vision. We must spare no effort to co-create this common future for the benefit of this generation of East Asians and the ones to follow.**

Final Report of the East Asia Study Group

**ASEAN+3 Summit
4 November 2002
Phnom Penh, Cambodia**

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Executive Summary

While growing interdependence among East Asian countries in the age of globalization has been further strengthening regional cooperation, the 1997 Asian financial crisis has awakened the urgent need for institutionalized cooperation and stronger economic integration that transcends the geographical distinction between Northeast Asia and Southeast Asia. Since its inception in 1997, the ASEAN+3 process has taken up various measures to expand and deepen cooperation between the two sub-regions, and East Asian countries are now taking concrete steps toward achieving the goals of closer integration and overcoming commonly-held challenges. Mindful of challenges and opportunities, as well as of growing regional interdependence, the leaders of ASEAN+3 adopted the Joint Statement on East Asia Cooperation in 1999.

As proposed by President Kim Dae-jung of the Republic of Korea, the leaders of ASEAN countries, China, Japan, and Korea agreed to establish the East Asia Vision Group (EAVG) and the East Asia Study Group (EASG) in December 1998 and November 2000 respectively. The EAVG, consisting of eminent intellectuals from ASEAN countries, China, Japan, and Korea, submitted its Report to the Summit in Brunei Darussalam in 2001. The EASG, consisting of government officials, was established in March 2001. In accordance with its mandate, the EASG submits its Final Report to the ASEAN+3 Summit in Cambodia in 2002. The Final Report of the EASG provides assessment of two broad categories: assessment of the recommendations of the EAVG and assessment of the implications of an East Asian Summit.

Assessment of the Recommendations of the EAVG

The EASG finds that the recommendations of the EAVG will be useful in realizing the East Asian vision of peace, prosperity and progress. In the process of selecting concrete measures, the EASG has focused on identifying areas in which concrete progress could be made to achieve the vision of East Asia. Based on its assessment, the EASG has selected twenty-six implementable concrete measures with high priority. The measures include not only economic and financial cooperation measures, but also political, security, environmental, energy, cultural, educational, social, and institutional measures. Moreover, the Final Report of the EASG contains details about the selected concrete measures, such as reasons for their selection, expected benefits, comments, and recommendations.

Short-term Measures (17 Concrete Measures)

- Form an East Asia Business Council;
- Establish GSP status and preferential treatment for the least developed countries;
- Foster an attractive investment environment for increased foreign direct investment;

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- Establish an East Asian Investment Information Network;
- Develop resources and infrastructure jointly for growth areas and expand financial resources for development with the active participation of the private sector;
- Provide assistance and cooperation in four priority areas: infrastructure, information technology, human resources development, and ASEAN regional economic integration;
- Cooperate through technology transfers and joint technology development;
- Develop information technology jointly to build telecommunications infrastructure and to provide greater access to the Internet;
- Build a network of East Asian think-tanks;
- Establish an East Asia Forum;
- Implement a comprehensive human resources development program for East Asia;
- Establish poverty alleviation programs;
- Take concerted steps to provide access to primary healthcare for the people;
- Strengthen mechanisms for cooperation on non-traditional security issues;
- Work together with cultural and educational institutions to promote a strong sense of identity and an East Asian consciousness;
- Promote networking and exchanges of experts in the conservation of the arts, artifacts, and cultural heritage of East Asian countries; and
- Promote East Asian studies in the region.

Medium-term and Long-term Measures, and Those that Require Further Studies (9 Concrete Measures)

- Form an East Asian Free Trade Area
- Promote investment by small and medium enterprises;
- Establish an East Asia Investment Area by expanding the ASEAN Investment Area;
- Establish a regional financing facility;
- Pursue a more closely coordinated regional exchange rate mechanism;
- Pursue the evolution of the ASEAN+3 Summit into an East Asian Summit;
- Promote closer regional marine environmental cooperation for the entire region;
- Build a framework for energy policies and strategies, and action plans; and
- Work closely with NGOs in policy consultation and coordination to encourage civic participation and state-civil society partnerships in tackling social problems.

Assessment of the Implications of an East Asian Summit

The ASEAN+3 framework has currently been making steady headway towards future undertakings of regional cooperation. It is important for East Asia to continue to build a durable institutional framework for region-wide dialogue and cooperation, since other major

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regions of the world, in terms of cooperation and integration, have been progressing at a rapid pace. As a means to further strengthening cooperation, the EAVG recommended "the evolution of the annual summit meetings of ASEAN plus Three into the East Asian Summit (EAS)."

The EASG has extensively explored the idea and implications of an EAS. Through in-depth study and discussions, the EASG finds that East Asian cooperation is both inevitable and necessary, that the deeper integration of an East Asian community is beneficial and desirable, and that such integration in East Asia will evolve over time. The discussions have also revealed concerns that ASEAN may be marginalized if the transition towards an EAS moves too fast and have noted the practical issue of whether an EAS would be encumbered with too many meetings. In addition, steps will be necessary to nurture a greater sense of ownership among all members in striving towards greater East Asian cooperation.

The EASG has come to the conclusion that, as a long-term desirable objective of the ASEAN+3, the EAS will serve to strengthen East Asian cooperation. The EASG is of the opinion that the ASEAN+3 framework remains the only credible and realistic vehicle to advance the form and substance of regional cooperation in East Asia. The EASG also stresses that the EAS should be part of an evolutionary and step-by-step process. To ensure the broadest level of acceptance, there is a need to gradually build up a similar comfort level among ASEAN countries, China, Japan, and Korea. To move forward, ASEAN countries, China, Japan, and Korea should explore ways to address the EAS-related issues practically and concretely. One practical step could be to convene regular DG-level meetings of ASEAN countries, China, Japan, and Korea to ensure progress and coherence in practical cooperation.

Conclusion/Recommendations

In sum, this Final Report presents the EASG's recommendations of twenty-six implementable concrete measures with high priority, together with details about them. The implementation of the measures requires a strong political commitment. The EASG recommends that East Asian countries prepare action plans on each concrete measure and have productive discussions on those plans within the ASEAN+3 process. Though the tasks ahead are large and daunting, the EASG is convinced that they can be surmounted with committed action. The EASG is confident about the work yet to be done, a lot of which is potentially outlined in this Final Report.

East Asians will ultimately live in a region of peace, prosperity and progress in this new millennium, since the successful implementation of the concrete measures recommended by the EASG will trigger the full utilization of the huge potentials of East Asia.

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At the Singapore Summit on 24 November 2000, the leaders of ASEAN countries, China, Japan, and Korea agreed to establish the East Asia Study Group (EASG), as proposed by the President of the Republic of Korea (ROK). The leaders at the Brunei Summit on 5 November 2001 asked the EASG to submit its Final Report to the ASEAN+3 Summit in Cambodia in 2002.
2. The EASG was officially launched on 17 March 2001, in Ho Chi Minh, Viet Nam. The EASG consists of thirteen SOM leaders of ASEAN countries, China, Japan, Korea, and the Secretary-General of ASEAN. The EASG was mandated to assess the recommendations of the East Asia Vision Group (EAVG) and, from that assessment, sort out a practical number of concrete measures that should be given high priority and are relatively easy to carry out. It was also commissioned to explore the idea and implications of an East Asian Summit and to submit its Final Report to the ASEAN+3 Summit in Phnom Penh, Cambodia in 2002. In accordance with its mandate, the EASG hereby submits its Final Report to the ASEAN+3 Summit.
3. On 22 July 2001, a Working Group at the level of Director-General was set up to assist the work of the EASG. Korea and the Chair of the ASEAN Standing Committee served as the Co-chairs of the EASG and its Working Group. In this regard, the ASEAN Co- chairs were Viet Nam (from March to July 2001), Brunei Darussalam (from August 2001 to July 2002), and Cambodia (from August to November 2002).
4. The EASG held six meetings from March 2001 to October 2002. Its Working Group also held six meetings from July 2001 to August 2002. The EASG adopted the Terms of Reference (TOR) at its second meeting in Ha Noi on 19 May 2001. The TOR – which includes objectives, guiding principles, scope of work, and modality of the EASG – is in Appendix.
5. The Working Group had intensive discussions on the EAVG Report and thoroughly assessed the fifty-seven concrete measures recommended by the EAVG. The Working Group acknowledged that the EAVG Report was comprehensive, far-reaching and positive, and that it presented many useful suggestions for fostering a sense of community identity from a long-term perspective. The Working Group also recognized the need for efforts to realize the vision of building an East Asian community of peace, prosperity and progress set out in the Report.
6. In the selection of concrete measures, the Working Group focused on identifying areas in which concrete progress could be made to fulfill the vision in the EAVG Report and avoided concrete measures that overlapped with the numerous forums of regional cooperation already underway, such as within the ASEAN+3 and ASEAN+1

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processes. At its fourth meeting in Kota Kinabalu on 18 April 2002, the Working Group completed its selection of concrete measures. The Working Group agreed to recommend twenty-six implementable concrete measures with high priority. These concrete measures were endorsed at the fifth EASG meeting held in Bandar Seri Begawan on 17 May 2002.

7. The twenty-six concrete measures are composed of seventeen measures for possible immediate implementation and nine measures for possible implementation in the medium-term or long-term, or requiring further studies. In the process of the selection of the concrete measures, the EASG made efforts to reflect a balanced view of accomplishing comprehensive cooperation among East Asian countries: the selected measures include not only economic and financial cooperation measures but also political/security, environmental/energy, social/cultural/educational, and institutional cooperation measures. Part II of this Report contains an overall assessment on and analysis of the EAVG's recommendations, as well as details about each selected concrete measure, such as reasons for selection, expected benefits, comments and recommendations, and so on.
8. At its fourth meeting, the Working Group discussed the implications of an East Asian Summit. The Working Group agreed that it was important to have a balanced view regarding the East Asian Summit, and that the Summit would evolve from the ASEAN+3 process. The Working Group also agreed that Singapore and Japan would jointly prepare a paper on the summation of the views and comments made by member countries.
9. Exchanges of views on the possible implications of the East Asian Summit were made at the fifth EASG meeting. The EASG agreed that the ASEAN+3 process would serve as a useful framework and a prime mover for the East Asian Summit, as it has an established mechanism that would provide the substantive aspect and the format of the East Asian Summit. The EASG meeting also stressed the need to develop the ASEAN+3 process gradually to consolidate and deepen ASEAN+3 cooperation, as well as to reach a level comfortable to all member countries. At its fifth meeting held in Tokyo on 28 June 2002, the Working Group exchanged views on the implications of an East Asian Summit, based on the paper jointly prepared by Singapore and Japan. The result is incorporated in Part III of this Report.
10. The Working Group had an intensive and productive discussion on the draft of the EASG Report, which was prepared by Korea and Brunei Darussalam, at the fifth meeting in Tokyo on 28 June 2002. At its sixth meeting in Seoul on 29 August 2002, the Working Group continued its discussion on the draft of the Report, which was

revised to reflect the results of its fifth meeting. The Working Group concluded the draft of the Final Report at the Working Group level. The sixth EASG meeting, held in Cambodia on 13 October 2002, endorsed the draft of its Final Report.

11. This Report is the fruit of a joint study conducted by ASEAN countries, China, Japan, Korea, and the ASEAN Secretariat for nearly two years. While carrying out its tasks in a cooperative spirit, members of the EASG and its Working Group have made their best efforts to reach their goal. In addition, they achieved a better understanding of other members in the region and generated mutual trust among themselves. Moreover, the members of the EASG have shared the view that cooperation among East Asian countries is not a choice but a compelling need for overcoming challenges and realizing the vision of East Asia set out in the Joint Statement on East Asia Cooperation by the leaders of ASEAN countries, China, Japan, and Korea in 1999 and in the EAVG Report. In this regard, the EASG stresses the importance of strengthening and expanding cooperation among East Asian countries.
12. Although the EASG concludes its function upon the submission of this Report to the ASEAN+3 Summit, the Report will remain and contribute to enhancing current regional cooperation into a broader dimension. The EASG recommends that ASEAN countries, China, Japan, and Korea make excellent action plans on the selected concrete measures, and successfully implement as many measures as possible. Through the implementation of the measures, cooperation among the countries will become deeper and deeper, and they will trust each other more and more. This, together with the fostered identity of East Asia, will contribute to advancing the realization of the vision of East Asia.

II. ASSESSMENT OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE EAST ASIA VISION GROUP

1. Overall Assessment of and Views on the Recommendations of the EAVG

13. The EAVG, which was set up as a Track II Group in October 1999 by the ASEAN+3 Summit, presented its Report at the ASEAN+3 Summit in Brunei Darussalam in November 2001, after having explored ways for two years to expand and intensify East Asian cooperation. The EAVG Report included twenty-two key recommendations in the fields of economic, financial, political/security, environmental/energy, social/cultural/educational, and institutional cooperation for the realization of the East Asian community.
14. During the Brunei Summit held in 2001, the leaders of ASEAN countries, China, Japan, and Korea highly appreciated the EAVG Report as a blueprint for the

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- desirable future of East Asian regional cooperation. The leaders viewed that the Report contained key proposals and concrete measures to broaden regional cooperation, although some were bold yet feasible, such as the establishment of an East Asian Free Trade Area and liberalization of trade well ahead of APEC's goals.
15. In accordance with paragraph 3.1 of the TOR of the EASG, the EASG and its Working Group had intensive discussions on the recommendations of the EAVG. The EASG sincerely appreciated the efforts of the EAVG in producing the valuable Report to deepen and expand East Asian cooperation spanning a wide range of fields.
 16. The EAVG Report portrayed a clear vision on the future of East Asia. Stressing the importance of pursuing open, gradual, and solid regional integration in East Asia, the Report called upon East Asian countries to take steps for building an East Asian community of peace, prosperity and progress as a long-term goal. If the vision of East Asia comes true, people in the region will have a more secured and prosperous future. While assessing the vision set out in the EAVG Report as positive, the EASG recognizes the need for making efforts to realize the vision of East Asia.
 17. As the EAVG Report mentioned, the integration of East Asia will be a long process. The resolve of East Asian countries to transform the vision into a reality will serve as a great catalyst and determine the speed and the depth of East Asian integration. The EASG emphasizes that it should focus on identifying areas in which concrete progress can be made to fulfill the vision in the Report.
 18. Recognizing the need to accelerate genuine East Asian cooperation transcending the distinction between Northeast Asia and Southeast Asia, the EAVG Report drew up fifty- seven concrete measures in various fields to enhance regional cooperation into a broader dimension. The EASG views that the EAVG Report presented East Asian countries and people with a new paradigm for regional cooperation. The EASG also acknowledges that the comprehensive, far-reaching, and positive Report presented many useful suggestions for fostering a sense of common identity for East Asia from a long-term perspective.
 19. However, the EASG finds that some concrete measures in the EAVG Report overlapped with numerous forms of regional cooperation already taken up within the ASEAN+3 and ASEAN+1 processes. In addition, the EASG takes note that due consideration should also be further given to certain key areas, such as tourism, forestry, and agriculture including food security, which are important to the East Asian region, but the EAVG Report did not include them in its suggestions for broadening regional cooperation.
 20. In sum, the EAVG Report was comprehensive, progressive and positive. It provided

East Asian countries with a good compass to show the right direction towards a bright future of East Asia. Containing valuable suggestions to bring the East Asian vision of peace, prosperity and progress into reality, the Report will contribute to paving the way toward an East Asian community.

2. Analysis of Recommendations

21. The EAVG proposed twenty-two key recommendations in six fields: economic, financial, political/security, environmental/energy, social/cultural/educational, and institutional cooperation. Under the key recommendations, the EAVG drew up fifty-seven concrete measures. Based on its analysis of each concrete measure, the EASG excluded thirty-one concrete measures from the list of its recommendations to the ASEAN+3 Summit. The following are the results of its analysis of the concrete measures in the above-mentioned fields.

Economic Cooperation

22. The EAVG suggested the following fifteen concrete measures to strengthen economic cooperation among East Asian countries:
- Form an EAFTA well ahead of the Bogor Goal of trade liberalization set by APEC;
 - Consolidate and encompass all existing bilateral and sub-regional FTAs;
 - Establish a ministerial committee to oversee the development of an EAFTA;
 - Establish GSP status and preferential treatment for the LDCs;
 - Foster an attractive investment environment for increased FDI;
 - Establish an East Asian Investment Information Network;
 - Promote investment by SMEs and establish an administrative and financial support system;
 - Establish an East Asia Investment Area by expanding the ASEAN Investment Area;
 - Develop resources and infrastructure jointly for growth areas and expand financial resources for development, with the active participation of the private sector;
 - Provide assistance and cooperation in three priority areas: infrastructure, IT, and human resources development;
 - Increase ODA to less developed economies in the region;
 - Cooperate through technology transfers and joint technology development;
 - Develop IT jointly to build telecommunications infrastructure and to provide greater access to the Internet;
 - Create a large pool of well-educated, flexible, and innovative human resources in the New Economy; and
 - Form an East Asia Business Council.

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23. The EASG attaches great importance to the promotion of trade in the region and acknowledges that an East Asia Free Trade Area (EAFTA) will help boost intra-regional trade and investments among East Asian countries. The establishment of an EAFTA may take the form of encompassing the bilateral and sub-regional Free Trade Areas (FTAs). In this light, it is desirable that the implementation processes of bilateral and sub-regional FTAs or FTA plus arrangements in East Asia be made transparent as much as possible by countries involved under the framework of ASEAN+3 consultations. There already exists a ministerial committee, in the form of the ASEAN+3 Economic Ministers Meeting (AEM+3). Consequently, the EASG recommends that the leaders of ASEAN+3 task AEM+3 to conduct a feasibility study on the benefits, challenges, and implications of an EAFTA. The establishment of an EAFTA should take into account the differences in economic development of East Asian countries.
24. To narrow the developmental gaps, the EASG is of the opinion that it is an imperative need to further accelerate endeavors to assist the CLMV in financial, trade, and investment areas. In this regard, the EASG recognized that under the ASEAN Integration System of Preference, the original six member countries of ASEAN have extended preferential tariff treatment to the CLMV since 1 January 2002. Northeast Asian countries have also extended preferential treatment to some developing countries in ASEAN.
25. The EASG acknowledges the need for a study to be carried out to examine how to bring about an East Asia Investment Area (EAIA).
26. The EASG recognizes the ongoing work of East Asian countries to narrow the developmental gaps in the region, especially the development of the growth areas in the sub-region of ASEAN. In addition to the three areas recommended by the EAVG, the EASG views that "ASEAN Regional Economic Integration" will be included as an additional priority area, as identified in the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) Work Plan. However, increasing ODA is at the discretion of each country.
27. The EASG places high importance on the development of Information Technology (IT) for the realization of a knowledge-based economy. Well aware of the importance of IT, the ASEAN+3 process has been enhancing and deepening cooperation in the IT field. Greater participation of the private sector in economic cooperation should also be promoted for the development of the new economy. The development of human resources in the new economy can be mentioned as a part of a comprehensive program of Human Resource Development (HRD).

Financial Cooperation

28. In the field of financial cooperation, the EAVG recommended the following four concrete measures:
- Establish a regional financing facility;
 - Launch an official forum to exchange views on macroeconomic and financial sector policies;
 - Pursue a more closely coordinated regional exchange rate mechanism consistent with both financial stability and economic development; and
 - Strengthen regional monitoring and surveillance processes within East Asia to supplement IMF global surveillance and Article IV consultation measures.
29. The EASG appreciates that the bilateral swap arrangements through the Chiang Mai Initiative (CMI) have already been implemented as a short-term liquidity support. The arrangements will be an initial step toward the establishment of a regional financing facility that will strengthen regional self-help and supplement the existing international facilities.
30. The ASEAN+3 Finance Ministers Meeting has been operating as a forum for cooperation in finance. A coordinated exchange rate mechanism becomes important with the growing inter-dependence among East Asian countries that have different exchange rate systems. Policy dialogue, which is a part of regional financial cooperation, is an ongoing activity performed through the ASEAN+3 Finance Ministers Process. Efforts are also being made to strengthen coordination through a bilateral and voluntary exchange of data on short-term capital flows. As a mechanism to be formally established in the long-term, an East Asian regional surveillance process will help enhance the financial stability in the region.

Political and Security Cooperation

31. The following thirteen concrete measures were suggested by the EAVG to promote political and security cooperation in East Asia:
- Adopt and implement a code of conduct to help govern relations on the basis of good neighborliness, mutual trust, and solidarity;
 - Develop and observe effective rules and procedures to help guide cooperation;
 - Nurture confidence-building among countries, especially exchanges, consultations, and other cooperative activities among military and defense officials;
 - Establish and implement effective measures to prevent and avoid conflict, and manage tensions;
 - Strengthen the ASEAN Regional Forum;

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- Cooperate toward agreement on the region's peace-keeping objectives;
 - Strengthen mechanisms for cooperation on non-traditional security issues, including, in particular, mechanisms to stem piracy and drug trafficking;
 - Promote sub-regional security dialogues;
 - Encourage domestic efforts to promote peace, stability, social harmony, respect for the rule of law, accountability, and democratic progress as desirable common goals in their respective national polities;
 - Exchange the best practices in addressing problems in governance;
 - Promote exchanges among leaders and various social interest groups;
 - Build a network of East Asian think-tanks; and
 - Amplify the East Asian voice in international affairs, and make a significant contribution to the process of creating and evolving a new global order.
32. In the Joint Statement on East Asia Cooperation adopted in 1999, the leaders of ASEAN countries, China, Japan, and Korea underscored their commitment to handling their mutual relations in accordance with the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, the Five Principles of Peaceful Co-existence, the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia, and the universally recognized principles of international law. The ASEAN-China Joint Statement of 1997 and similar ASEAN-Japan and ASEAN-Korea Joint Statements of 1997 also spelled out principles and objectives of their cooperation, based on equality, mutual respect, and enhanced partnership for the promotion of common interests.
33. The EASG recognizes that confidence-building activities are being undertaken in the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF). Within this framework, dialogue among military officials has further developed and has established the ARF Defense Dialogue. The ARF helps provide channels of communication to enhance mutual understanding. It is, therefore, desirable to strengthen the role of the ARF to encourage the dialogue. Taking into account the implications of international terrorism on the security of states, East Asian countries have agreed to enhance their cooperation on transnational issues. In this regard, the EASG is also of the opinion that East Asian countries should intensify consultation and cooperation on transnational issues that affect human security and regional stability.
34. The EASG regards it as important for East Asian countries to strengthen cooperation in addressing problems in governance, such as reducing corruption, undertaking legal reform, and achieving transparency, responsiveness, and efficiency in public administration. However, the implementation of these concrete measures should be left to each country concerned, given the political diversity and difference in national

circumstances. The EASG believes that building a network of think-tanks among ASEAN countries, China, Japan, and Korea is important for expediting political cooperation in the region. Amplifying the East Asian voice in international affairs requires close coordination and consultation among East Asian countries.

Environmental and Energy Cooperation

35. In order to expand environmental and energy cooperation, the EAVG recommended the following thirteen concrete measures:
- Establish an East Asian environmental cooperative body, which includes a dispute settlement mechanism and a regional environmental database;
 - Establish an Environment Ministers Meeting;
 - Cooperate on problems of air pollution, transboundary pollution, land erosion, and deforestation;
 - Formulate a joint action plan for sustainable environmental management with the provision of both financial and technical assistance;
 - Facilitate exchanges to address urban development concerns;
 - Take concerted actions in international forums to ensure effective implementation of all multilateral agreements;
 - Introduce environmental education at the early stages of school curricula;
 - Encourage the development of regional environmental networks and the activities of NGOs at the grassroots level;
 - Endeavor jointly to ensure more effective management of water resources and fisheries;
 - Promote closer regional marine environmental cooperation for the entire region;
 - Stimulate research and development to explore alternative sources of cleaner energy;
 - Establish regional nuclear cooperation arrangements; and
 - Build a framework for energy policies and strategies, and action plans, such as the trans-ASEAN energy network projects.
36. Establishing an ASEAN+3 Environment Ministers Meeting will help institutionalize this very important area of East Asian cooperation. The institutionalization of the Environment Ministers Meeting will help enhance and deepen cooperation on environmental issues. The EASG recognizes that ongoing cooperation under the ASEAN+3 mechanism will enable implementation of the measures of the enhancement of environmental education and the involvement of NGOs. ASEAN is currently focusing on efforts to ensure the supply of clean water through watershed management and prevention of contamination from pollution sources. To promote

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a clean regional marine environment, East Asian countries need close coordination and joint efforts to gain synergetic effects of various programs being undertaken in the region.

37. The EASG attaches importance to energy security for the sustainable development of the East Asian economy through cooperation among East Asian countries. Although there is no plan as yet for cooperation on nuclear energy, comprehensive cooperation through a framework policy will greatly enhance cooperation among East Asian countries in consideration of their existing national policies. Cooperation in research and development of alternative and/or cleaner energy sources can be included in the comprehensive strategy and policy on energy development in the East Asian region.

Social, Cultural, and Educational Cooperation

38. In the fields of social, cultural, and educational cooperation, the EAVG recommended the following nine concrete measures:
- Establish poverty alleviation programs;
 - Review and address different forms of inequality and prejudice that may affect the respective societies;
 - Work closely with NGOs in policy consultation and coordination to encourage civic participation and to promote state-civil society partnerships;
 - Take concerted steps to expand and improve access to primary healthcare for the people, particularly at-risk groups, with special attention to HIV/AIDS and malaria;
 - Implement a comprehensive HRD program for East Asia, focusing on the improvement of basic education, skills-training, and capacity-building;
 - Work together with cultural and educational institutions to promote a strong sense of identity and an East Asian consciousness;
 - Promote networking and exchanges of experts in the conservation of the arts, artifacts, and cultural heritage of East Asia;
 - Promote East Asian studies in the region; and
 - Establish an East Asia Education Fund to finance basic education, literacy programs, and skills-training in the region.
39. The EASG recognizes that poverty is one of the root-causes of problems that threaten social justice and human security, and thus create social instability. East Asian countries, should, therefore, join their efforts to alleviate poverty in less developed countries. The EASG feels that the implementation of the measure of reviewing and addressing different forms of unequal relations and prejudice can be best done at the national level. In view of the important roles played by civil society in

the field of development assistance, it is also important to work closely with NGOs in this process.

40. The EASG acknowledges that HRD is one of the key elements in combating poverty and ensuring economic and social development in East Asia. It recommends the elaboration of concrete measures towards comprehensive HRD.
41. The EASG recognizes that cooperation on health is governed by a lot of action plans on disease surveillance, tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS, community-based care for the elderly, and pharmaceuticals.
42. The EASG believes that the concept of East Asian consciousness and identity needs to be strongly promoted among scholars and the young generation. As most of the cultural and educational activities are loosely organized and carried out by various organizations, it is important to encourage and support the networking among those organizations and experts. The EASG recognizes that more discussions should be done before establishing a fund with the purpose of promoting education, considering the financial implication of a new fund.

Institutional Cooperation

43. In the field of institutional cooperation, the EAVG recommended the following three concrete measures to upgrade the current level of cooperation in East Asia:
 - Pursue the evolution of the ASEAN+3 Summit into an East Asian Summit;
 - Institutionalize regional dialogues, including regular Meetings of Foreign Ministers and leaders of other sectors on diverse political and security-related subjects; and
 - Establish an East Asia Forum consisting of the region's governmental and non-governmental representatives from various sectors, with the aim to serve as an institutional mechanism for broad-based social exchanges and, ultimately, regional cooperation.
44. The EASG is of the opinion that the East Asian Summit, as a long-term objective of the ASEAN+3, will serve to strengthen regional cooperation in East Asia. Regional dialogues have already been institutionalized, such as the Foreign Ministers Meeting and the Senior Officials Meeting. To ensure coherence and coordination in ASEAN+3 activities, the need for regular ASEAN+3 Directors-General Meeting was endorsed by the ASEAN+3 Foreign Ministers on 30 July 2002. The inaugural meeting of the ASEAN+3 Directors-General was held in Seoul, Korea on 30 August 2002.
45. The work of the EAVG and the EASG to find ways to promote the ASEAN+3 process concluded in November 2001 and November 2002 respectively. In order to maintain the momentum of East Asian cooperation that has been created, an East Asia Forum needs to be established.

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Other Areas of Cooperation

46. The EASG is of the view that due importance should be given to the following areas that were not fully addressed in the EAVG Report:
 - Food, Agriculture, and Forestry
 - Tourism
47. The EASG recognizes the importance of promoting cooperation to increase productivity and enhance competitiveness of food, agriculture, and forestry sectors in East Asia. The EASG welcomes the joint efforts being undertaken in the AMAF+3 process and recommends that active support be given to further promote cooperation, especially on transfer of technologies and joint Research and Development (R&D).
48. The EASG recognizes the efforts being undertaken in the forums of the ASEAN+3 Ministers of Tourism and the ASEAN+3 National Tourism Organization to promote closer tourism cooperation in East Asia. The EASG notes that ASEAN is intensifying tourism cooperation with the signing of the ASEAN Tourism Agreement at the Eighth ASEAN Summit in Cambodia in November 2002. In this connection, the EASG is of the view that tourism is a significant area that should continue to receive attention and support in the ASEAN+3 process.

3. Identification of Implementable Concrete Measures with High Priority

3.1 Short-term Measures

3.1.1 Form an East Asia Business Council

49. Many East Asian countries had recorded double-digit economic growth rates over the past several years until the recent financial crisis. With the remarkable success in economic growth, countries in the East Asian region became increasingly interdependent on each other. For example, by the end of the 1980s, intra-regional trade among ASEAN countries, China, Japan, and Korea grew to 30% of the region's total trade. This figure swelled to 36.6% by 1996, but dropped to 31.5% in 1998, due to the 1997 financial crisis, and recovered to 33.9% in 1999. The region has also experienced such interdependence in investment.
50. The business sector in the region has greatly contributed to the rapid increase in intra- regional trade and investment. With globalization as well as liberalization in trade and investment, private sector-led economic cooperation becomes critical because the government sector alone cannot achieve satisfactory progress for common prosperity in East Asia. In this regard, the formation of an East Asia Business Council would strengthen cooperation among business sectors in the

region and promote intra-regional trade and investment, contributing to the region's economic growth.

51. The East Asia Business Council, which will be composed of representatives from small and medium enterprises, and multi-national corporations in the region, will help members achieve their business objectives. It will facilitate dialogue among business representatives of each member country. The Council, representing business and commercial interests, will promote trade, investment, and industrial activities among East Asian countries. Each country's domestic body of the East Asia Business Council can also function as a mediator to provide foreign investors with information on and access to the market, and to discuss common problems in relation to investment. It will also be able to advise the policy-makers on investment, market access, and international trade issues, such as the newly-launched Doha Development Agenda of the WTO.
52. ASEAN has already established joint business councils with several key Dialogue Partners, including Japan and China. ASEAN is also in the process of establishing the ASEAN Business Advisory Council. ASEAN and Korea established the Joint Business Council in the early 1990s but have not convened any following conference since its launch. Recently, ASEAN suggested that the ASEAN-Korean Business Council be re-activated in 2002. The re-activation of the ASEAN-Korean Business Council would facilitate the formation of an East Asia Business Council because East Asian countries can integrate and coordinate the business councils' work for the benefit of East Asian countries as a whole.
53. The EASG recommends to the leaders of ASEAN+3 countries that the AEM+3 process be assigned to expedite the establishment of the East Asia Business Council. Since the private sector initiatives need to play an important role in strengthening regional cooperation through expanding and deepening business activities, the private sector of ASEAN+3 countries should be encouraged to actively participate in the efforts for establishing an East Asia Business Council.

3.1.2 Establish GSP status and preferential treatment for the LDCs

54. East Asian countries represent the rich diversity of the region as well as disparities in stages of economic development. There is obvious disparity, with the rich countries claiming per capita GDP of more than US\$ 30,000, while the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) in the region have per capita GDP of less than US\$ 400. Mindful of this wide gap of per capita GDP, East Asian countries should strengthen regional cooperation to narrow the developmental gaps among themselves.
55. Foreign trade can be a propelling force in the development of LDCs, due to its direct

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and indirect benefits. In this regard, broadening market access for LDCs' products will contribute to reducing the developmental gaps among East Asian countries. Under the fierce competition in the world market, however, LDCs may be discouraged from actively participating in trade with other countries, due to their weak competitiveness. The establishment of GSP status and preferential treatment for LDCs will improve the competitiveness of their exports and also give them impetus to actively participate in the world economy for further development.

56. Since 1971, the United Nations has identified LDCs. The Rules of the World Trade Organization (WTO) allow its members to provide preferential tariff treatment to products of LDCs on a generalized, non-reciprocal, and non-discriminatory basis. The ASEAN Integration System of Preference (AISP) stipulates the extension of tariff preferences to the CLMV by the original six member countries on a bilateral and voluntary basis from 1 January 2002. Under the AISP, the original six member countries will be expected to extend tariff preferences to nearly US\$ 400 million worth of the CLMV's exports. Most of the original six member countries of ASEAN, China, Japan, and Korea have already been offering GSP status and preferential treatment for the LDCs in East Asia.
57. Once GSP status and preferential treatment for the LDCs are established, the next question will be how to expand the coverage of preferential tariff treatment to the CLMV.

3.1.3 Foster an attractive investment environment for increased FDI

58. According to the "World Investment Report 2001" issued by UNCTAD, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) flows to ASEAN countries, China, Japan, and Korea decreased from US\$ 82.82 billion in 1997 to US\$ 78.36 billion in 1999, while world FDI inflows rapidly increased from US\$ 477.91 billion to US\$ 1.07 trillion during the same period. In fact, FDI inflows to ASEAN countries reversed from US\$ 32.54 billion in 1997 to US\$ 14.7 billion in 1999.
59. Although the East Asian financial crisis has revealed problems inherent in foreign short-term capital flows, capital flows will nevertheless continue to play an important role as a powerful engine and a catalyst for achieving development. Long-term capital inflows in the form of FDI bring to the recipient country capital and foreign exchanges, as well as jobs, export markets, managerial ability, technical personnel, new technology, administrative organization, and innovations in product and production techniques.
60. East Asian countries have taken various measures to foster an attractive investment environment for FDI. They have liberalized restrictions on FDI, offered tax incentives,

provided special facilities, undertaken additional public service, and extended financial assistance. ASEAN has been making efforts to enhance the attractiveness of the region's investment environment through the implementation of the Framework Agreement on the AIA. The AIA initially extended national treatment and opened up almost all industries for FDI, with the exception of those in the Temporary Exclusion List and the Sensitive List. The AIA has also expanded its coverage by including services incidental to the manufacturing, agriculture, forestry, fishery, and mining sectors. Moreover, the ending date for the phasing out of the Temporary List for the manufacturing sector for the original six members countries of ASEAN and Myanmar will be advanced from 2010 to 2003, and Cambodia, Laos, and Viet Nam will have 2010 as the ending date. In order for East Asian countries to build closer economic relations, it is also necessary to share information as to the progress of the AIA.

61. The best strategy to increase FDI inflows is to foster an attractive investment environment. In this regard, the Agreement between Japan and Singapore for a New- Age Economic Partnership, the proposed FTA between ASEAN and China, and the Agreement between Japan and Korea for the Liberalization, Promotion and Protection of Investment would serve as good vehicles for fostering an attractive investment environment and increasing capital flows in East Asia. Besides removing restrictions on FDI or offering tax and other incentives, attention should also be given to sound macroeconomic fundamentals, transparent and non-discriminatory legal frameworks of FDI with well-functioning enforcement procedures, sensible policy regulations, fair and transparent tax systems, low-cost financing and credit systems, skilled human resources, infrastructure, corporate governance, reduction of bureaucratic red tape, anti-corruption, and so on. In all these areas, East Asian countries can cooperate to benchmark their FDI policies and regulations with those of successful countries in the region.

3.1.4 Establish an East Asian Investment Information Network

62. A private firm invests in a foreign country according to information on commercial profitability of, accessibility to, and constraints on its investment. Dissemination of information regarding investment opportunities and environment is indispensable for both investors and those who want to attract investment. Making a pool of information will greatly contribute to promoting investment by assisting foreign investors in their investment decision and helping local businessmen find foreign partners. In this regard, establishing an East Asian Investment Information Network (EAIIN) would facilitate intra-regional investment flows by providing comprehensive and up-to-date information on investment opportunities and environments of each ASEAN+3 country.

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63. Currently, Internet usage is increasing at a dramatic rate in most countries of East Asia. The Internet has become a crucial tool that accelerates business information flows. As more people rely on the Web as a source for business information, it will be more useful for East Asian countries to use the Internet as a tool for promoting investment in the region. If East Asian countries build a website to provide investment information and to link investment-related sites of each country, it will facilitate easier foreign investment in East Asia and at the same time enable local business people to disseminate their information and attract foreign investors. In addition to the Internet, investment information could be also disseminated through CD ROMs.
64. Under the cooperation and facilitation program of the AIA, ASEAN undertakes to establish databases for ASEAN Supporting Industries and ASEAN Technology Suppliers, as well as for the smooth flow of ASEAN investment data and information on investment opportunities in ASEAN. Therefore, it will not be difficult to establish an EAIIN. The investment promotion bodies, such as CCPIT of China, JETRO of Japan, KOTRA of Korea, I.E. Singapore of Singapore, and other relevant bodies, including the Board of Investment in ASEAN countries, have promoted investment by deploying a variety of activities. Especially in e-data exchanges, the above-mentioned bodies have already started exchanging their investment-related data, which are utilized by business people. The ASEAN-Japan Center will continue to strive for the promotion of export from ASEAN to Japan and for the acceleration of the investment inflow from Japan to ASEAN countries through diverse activities, such as providing a wide range of data and information on trade between ASEAN and Japan, and publishing information on the current investment climate of each ASEAN member country for the Japanese business community. The EAIIN would complement what ASEAN is doing under the cooperation and facilitation program of the AIA and make use of the ongoing activities of the ASEAN-Japan Center, as well as the above investment bodies, in order to promote investment among ASEAN countries, China, Japan, and Korea. Concerning the dissemination of information related to investment opportunities and environments among ASEAN countries, China, Japan, and Korea, it is also important to encourage the credit rating agencies in East Asia to share the information among themselves so as to increase the credibility of their assessment.
65. To promote intra-regional investment, it is important for East Asian countries to facilitate the investment information flow while improving their investment environment. The establishment of an EAIIN would contribute to stimulating intra-investment, especially investment by more developed countries into less developed countries in the region. To this end, a study should be carried out to examine how to

bring about the EAIIN.

3.1.5 Develop resources and infrastructure jointly for growth areas and expand financial resources for development with the active participation of the private sector

66. Many neighboring countries share common resources, which, if not jointly managed, may result in disadvantages to the poor, who often use common natural resources for their livelihood. Linking cross-border areas with their different factor endowments and different comparative advantages to form a larger grouping will enhance the potential for faster economic growth and increased trade because these differences in comparative advantage will complement each other. In addition to economic benefits, sustained cooperation among bordering areas will deepen interdependence and build trust, which are effective means of minimizing conflicts. Therefore, jointly developing the growth areas of the ASEAN sub-region is very important for narrowing the developmental gaps and preventing conflicts among East Asian countries.
67. At the Fourth ASEAN Summit in Singapore in 1992, the leaders adopted the Singapore Declaration that set directions on ASEAN economic cooperation, including the establishment of sub-regional arrangements. To develop these arrangements, ASEAN countries have actively expedited the implementation and further development of growth areas in order to narrow developmental disparities among member countries and to reduce poverty. The sub-regional arrangements involve areas that may be at a considerable distance from their respective capitals but happen to be located close to each other. The proximity of markets will help reduce costs resulting from their economic activities.
68. There are six major growth areas in Southeast Asia: (1) Indonesia-Malaysia-Singapore Growth Triangle, (2) Indonesia-Malaysia-Thailand Growth Triangle (IMT-GT), (3) Brunei-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East ASEAN Growth Areas (BIMP-EAGA), (4) Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS), (5) the inter-state areas along the West-East Corridor (WEC) of Mekong Basin in Viet Nam, Laos, Cambodia and Northeastern Thailand within the ASEAN-Mekong Basin Development Cooperation Scheme, and (6) Cambodia-Laos-Viet Nam Triangle Development Area.
69. Development of the growth areas will be stimulated through promoting trade and investment. FDI in export-oriented industries utilizing natural resources of the areas will greatly contribute to their development. Furthermore, the improvement of infrastructure will facilitate the development of the growth areas. In this regard, it is worth reviewing the recommendation that the government sector play a greater and more proactive role, extending beyond that of facilitator, by removing bottlenecks

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and providing special incentive schemes to boost private sector investment based on each area's comparative advantage and natural endowment. To accelerate the development of the growth areas, efforts should be also made to attract greater participation of China, Japan, and Korea, as well as ASEAN. Especially, encouraging investment by the private sector of China, Japan, and Korea is important to expedite the economic potential of sub-regional growth areas.

3.1.6 Provide assistance and cooperation in four priority areas: infrastructure, IT, human resources development, and ASEAN regional economic integration

70. Given the disparity in the stages of development among East Asian countries, it is important to make concerted efforts to narrow developmental gaps among these countries for the region's common prosperity and dynamic and sustained growth. For the effective use of assistance to less developed countries, it is important to identify priority areas correctly and then to focus cooperation on the areas. In the Joint Statement on East Asia Cooperation in 1999, the leaders of ASEAN countries, China, Japan, and Korea underscored their commitment to building upon existing consultative and cooperative processes, as well as to joint efforts, on various levels and in various areas. The following actions initiated by respective East Asian countries contribute to the implementation of this Joint Statement. In "Japan's Medium-Term Policy on Official Development Assistance" adopted in August 1999, Japan clarified its intention to provide support for HRD and for regional development initiatives, and to adjust its assistance to social and economic infrastructure development to conform to the needs and conditions of individual countries. As for cooperation in the field of IT, the East Asia ICT Cooperation Conference held in Okayama in September 2001 contributed to the promotion of East Asian cooperation in this field. Moreover, Japan announced a "Comprehensive Cooperation Package to Address the International Digital Divide" prior to the G-8 Kyushu-Okinawa Summit in July 2000, and made its intention known that Japan was ready to give positive assistance centering on the following four fields: (1) Raising Awareness and Contributing Intellectually to Policy and Institution-building, (2) Developing and Training of Human Resources, (3) Building IT Infrastructure and Providing Assistance for Network Establishment, and (4) Promoting the Use of IT in Development Assistance. Under the framework of the ASEAN+3 Economic Ministers Meeting, Japan also strives for the realization of projects, such as "Asia e-learning Initiative" and "Asia Common Skill Standard Initiative for IT engineers."

71. At the Fourth Informal ASEAN Summit in Singapore in November 2000, the leaders agreed to launch an Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI). Subsequently, at the 34th

ASEAN Ministerial Meeting in Ha Noi in July 2001, foreign ministers of ASEAN countries adopted the Ha Noi Declaration on Narrowing the Development Gap for Closer ASEAN Integration. The Declaration identified four priority areas for development: infrastructure, HRD, Information and Communication Technology (ICT), and regional economic integration, with commitments to devote special efforts and resources to promote effective cooperation and mutual assistance to narrow the developmental gaps among ASEAN countries.

72. For infrastructure development, the Declaration places emphasis on strengthening the transportation linkage for the flow of goods and people in the region. It also highlights the implementation of the trans-ASEAN energy networks to ensure the security and sustainability of energy supplies in ASEAN.
73. For HRD, the Declaration encourages the efforts for human resources development in newer member countries of ASEAN. They include the establishment of programs and educational and training institutes, broader usage of English as a tool of communication, benchmarks and time-tables in the field of education, and comprehensive assessment of training needs of government officials with active support by member countries as well as non-member countries of ASEAN.
74. For ICT, the Declaration calls for urgent implementation of the e-ASEAN Framework Agreement and the Asian IT Belt initiative, recognizing the importance of ICT in narrowing the developmental gaps. It also emphasizes the need for liberalizing trade and investment in the ICT industry and assessment of the needs of new ASEAN members.
75. For regional economic integration, the Declaration supports the ongoing efforts of ASEAN economic integration, such as the AFTA, the AIA, and preferential import treatment for new member countries. It also supports the sub-regional development of growth areas in ASEAN.
76. ASEAN has stepped up efforts in mobilizing more assistance and cooperation from its original six member countries as well as from its Dialogue Partners, especially China, Japan, and Korea, to assist new ASEAN member countries in infrastructure, HRD, ICT, and regional economic integration. To narrow the developmental gaps between new and original member countries of ASEAN, it is essential for the original six member countries and Northeast Asian countries to step up extending cooperation and assistance to new member countries of ASEAN in the four priority areas.

3.1.7 Cooperate through technology transfers and joint technology development – FDI and strategic alliance

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77. Technological cooperation is vital for sharing prosperity among East Asian countries because technology has been a leading force in economic development by increasing productivity. However, it is becoming more and more difficult for developing countries to acquire advanced technologies, while it remains relatively easy to acquire older technologies. With fierce competition in technological invention and innovation, new technologies become the object of strict protection, which takes precedence over cooperation. The wave of liberalization and privatization has accelerated the emergence of multinational corporations (MNCs), which are equipped with their own research centers or are financing research teams. The MNCs are, however, more concerned with their own profits than with the sharing of technology. Moreover, most developing countries lack the ability to adapt and improve imported technologies to suit local conditions and to develop more appropriate technologies for themselves. In this regard, it is very important for East Asian countries to cooperate through technology transfers and joint technological development.
78. FDI and strategic alliances between enterprises in the East Asian region will play a major role in promoting technology transfers and joint technological development. FDI-related technology flows can offer more relevant and up-to-date skills that are more in demand by the fast-changing global market. FDI also introduces advanced managerial and marketing expertise. Through joint ventures, local firms are able to increase their capacity of technology absorption effectively.
79. Strategic alliances will provide recipient countries with new technology for production and will also help them promote their capabilities to make good use of it. Through strategic alliances, local firms in developing countries will be able to develop new technologies with the help of their allied firms in developed countries and adjust those technologies to satisfy their needs in enhancing productivity and competitiveness. In this respect, strategic alliances with firms of developed countries will help boost the technological growth of the developing recipient countries.
80. To strengthen technological cooperation, East Asian countries should start with identifying feasible technological cooperation areas. Then the governments in the region should encourage private companies to exchange technology on a commercial basis while increasing free transfer of government-owned technologies, except those that are restricted from transfer due to security or other reasons. It is worthwhile to consider setting up a technology transfer network consisting of a collection of technical Web sites containing information about technologies that enterprises in the region can transfer or need to develop jointly if an East Asia Business Council is established.

3.1.8 Develop IT jointly to build telecommunications infrastructure and to provide greater access to the Internet

81. Rapid progress in ICT, including the emergence of the Internet, has been providing opportunities for new cooperative endeavors in the region. Facilitation of speedier exchanges of knowledge and information, and trade expansion through the utilization of the information infrastructure will be the fruits to be harvested from such endeavors. In the East Asian region, joint development of building telecommunications infrastructure and providing greater access to the Internet at reduced costs to users will contribute to strengthening the region's competitiveness in the global market.
82. However, the rapid growth of the information and telecommunication industry has been turning out to be a double-edged sword, increasingly revealing negative aspects as well as positive ones. The digital divide translates directly into a developmental gap, widening the disparities between the information-haves and the information-have-nots domestically, as well as between developed and developing countries. This gap will lead to polarization that will ultimately undermine the economic development and prosperity of all, resulting in negative social and political fallout. In order to narrow the digital divide among East Asian countries, cooperation should also focus on providing technical assistance for the development of IT in less developed East Asian countries with the help of the private sector.
83. Aware of the need for closer cooperation to develop the information and telecommunication industry, ASEAN countries, China, Japan, and Korea have been accelerating their efforts for cooperation among themselves. At the Fourth Informal ASEAN Summit in Singapore in November 2000, the leaders of ASEAN signed the e- ASEAN Framework Agreement, which aims at promoting cooperation in the ICT sector to reduce the digital divide within ASEAN countries with the participation of both public and private sectors. The Framework Agreement also calls for the liberalization of trade in ICT products, ICT services, and investments. China, Japan, and Korea are actively joining in the efforts to establish the trans-East Asian network for better access to ICT for all people in the region. As for Japan's cooperation in this field, one of the four pillars of Japan's "Comprehensive Cooperation Package to Address the International Digital Divide" announced in July 2000 was to build an IT Infrastructure and to provide assistance for network establishment. Korea proposed the establishment of an East Asian Special Fund to address the digital divide and carry out the East Asia IT Internship Program. East Asian countries should strengthen their cooperation in the ICT sector to narrow the digital divide in the region, in the

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process doubling the efforts by both public and private sectors of the region.

3.1.9 Build a network of East Asian think-tanks

84. Think-tanks can serve as a bridge between the academic community and political decision-makers. Think-tanks can give early warning to governments and civic social groups before the problems become serious. Focusing on analysis of important issues, they can concentrate on new political, economic, and societal trends that will be potential problems in the near future, and they are able to detect new problems in advance. In addition, think-tanks can come up with measures and policy alternatives to solve new problems to help decision-makers find appropriate solutions. Furthermore, think-tanks can function as opinion leaders by fostering favorable environments for decision-makers to adopt new policies to address problems because they are able to provide the public with in-depth studies on new policies and benefits to be produced by implementing such policies. Expanding globalization and deepening interdependence among East Asian countries have necessitated think-tanks in the region to establish a network to carry out their tasks more effectively because it becomes more and more difficult for a country to solve new problems without cooperation from other countries.
85. Building a network of think-tanks will facilitate cooperation in decision-making processes and coordination of policies in the East Asian region. With the network, East Asian think-tanks can accelerate exchanges of views on issues important to the peace and security in the region. By using the network, think-tanks in the region can effectively analyze common problems that East Asian countries are facing, and draw up harmonized solutions to the problems. Moreover, the network will encourage think-tanks to exchange the best practices in addressing problems in policy making and implementation. The network will also provide think-tanks with good opportunities to jointly explore long-term policy issues of strategic importance to the region.
86. ASEAN has several think-tanks at national and regional levels, including the ASEAN ISIS (Institute of Strategic and International Studies). The ASEAN ISIS, established in 1984, is made up of nine member institutes from nine member countries: BDIPS Brunei Darussalam, CICP Cambodia, CSIS Indonesia, LIFA Laos, ISIS Malaysia, ISDS Philippines, SIIA Singapore, ISIS Thailand, and IIR Viet Nam. It has provided ASEAN with critical policy recommendations based on sound judgment and empirical research. Moreover, ASEAN ISIS has been a key player in the creation of the Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia Pacific (CSCAP) that has contributed to the discussion of regional political and security issues in the Asia-Pacific region. The ASEAN ISIS has also established a wide and vibrant network of research institutions

with like-minded counterparts in Northeast Asia.

87. It will be relatively easy to establish a network of East Asian think-tanks because ASEAN has experience in building the ASEAN ISIS and extending it through its network of institutions in Northeast Asian countries. Once a network of East Asian think-tanks is established, the network will make a great contribution to promoting political cooperation and deepening cooperative relationships among East Asian countries.

3.1.10 Establish an EAF consisting of the region's governmental and non-governmental representatives from various sectors, with the aim to serve as an institutional mechanism for broad-based social exchanges and, ultimately, regional cooperation

88. Both the EAVG and the EASG have served as catalysts that have generated a strong impetus for the pursuit of closer cooperation in the East Asian region. It is important that the momentum of East Asian cooperation generated by the EAVG and the EASG be maintained and further strengthened as ASEAN countries, China, Japan, and Korea move smoothly along the long road towards the realization of the vision of building an East Asian community of peace, prosperity and progress, which was presented in the EAVG Report.
89. During the ASEAN+3 Summit in Brunei Darussalam in 2001, the EAVG's recommendation of the establishment of an East Asia Forum (EAF) received support from the leaders of ASEAN countries, China, Japan, and Korea. For the purpose of providing diverse perspectives on regional cooperation to the governments of ASEAN countries, China, Japan, and Korea, the EAF needs to be set up soon in order to maintain the momentum. In this way, the current efforts for regional cooperation will continue without any interruption.
90. The EAF, consisting of representatives from government, business, and academic circles, will function as a think-tank for broad-based social exchanges and, ultimately, regional cooperation. The EAF will also contribute greatly to fostering an East Asian identity among the people in the region by providing a forum for extensive exchanges and cooperation in various fields. In addition, the complementary nature of its participants will provide fuller and more diverse perspectives on regional cooperation. The EAF will be modeled as a Track II process, with a view to encouraging dialogue and interaction, developing networking, and promoting an exchange of views and generation of ideas in the region.
91. The EAF will focus its activities on exploring and suggesting practical ways and means to further strengthen regional cooperation. By suggesting constructive ideas

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and ways for cooperation, the EAF will contribute to consolidating the ASEAN+3 cooperation process, which has been operating as an institutional mechanism of regional cooperation in the region. In view of the role of the EAF, various ASEAN+3 cooperation bodies will have the EAF do research and/or studies in order to further strengthen and deepen regional cooperation. The EASG suggests that details of the establishment of the EAF be discussed in the ASEAN+3 process, particularly the ASEAN+3 DGs Meeting, after the ASEAN+3 Summit in Cambodia in November 2002.

3.1.11 Implement a comprehensive human resources development program for East Asia focusing on the improvement of basic education, skills-training, and capacity-building

92. Effective use of physical capital itself depends on human capital. If there is under-investment in human capital, productive utilization of physical capital will be limited because technical, professional, and administrative people will not be able to use physical capital effectively. As the world is moving towards a knowledge-based economy, human capital becomes a more important factor in a country's quest for strengthening its competitiveness. Further sustainable development of a country will be closely dependent on the effective development of its human resources through education, skills-training, and capacity-building. Deepening interdependence among East Asian countries has increased the necessity for strengthening regional cooperation in the development of human resources.
93. It is obvious that investment in education and skills-training deserves high priority. Such investment will contribute to enhancing labor productivity. A lack of investment in education and skills-training increases the risk of unemployment as well as income disparities. In most instances, economic returns on investment in education and skills-training seem to exceed returns on alternative kinds of investment, and developing countries obtain higher returns than developed countries. Capacity-building efforts should focus on strengthening educational, research, and skills-training institutions, extension agencies, NGOs, and community organizations.
94. In order to promote structural reforms and to stimulate economic activities in East Asia, it is imperative to improve the capabilities of administrative management in local governments and in various kinds of law enforcement, and so on. Japan and Korea will provide technical assistance in those fields by sending their experts, holding seminars, and offering other assistance schemes. Priorities related to HRD are clearly spelled out by the ASEAN leaders in the Ha Noi Declaration and the Ha Noi Plan of Action. The Declaration states that "the maintenance and creation of

employment shall be a primary consideration in strategies for economic recovery and growth." To this end, the leaders agreed that an essential part of the strategy would be to "train people for the demands and opportunities of the industries of today and tomorrow." In addition, at the ASEAN+3 Summit in Manila in November 1999, the leaders adopted the Joint Statement on East Asia Cooperation in which they agreed to "heighten cooperative efforts in such areas as the implementation of the ASEAN HRD Initiative by establishing a Human Resource Development Fund ..."

95. The ASEAN Regional Project on Human Resource Development Planning aims to identify and recommend measures that will greatly contribute to economic development. Possible measures are: the establishment of a network among leading HRD Institutions in ASEAN countries and a regional HRD Work Program to facilitate training/capacity- building on human resource planning and development; the development of a regional labor market information system; and the integration of HRD policy options and practices into the overall national development planning process. Northeast Asian countries, holding the conviction that HRD is a key factor of economic development and nation-building, have cooperated with ASEAN countries to implement HRD programs. Planning and implementing HRD is not easy. East Asian countries can also cooperate in the development of human resources through exchanges of the best practices and experiences among themselves.

3.1.12 Establish poverty alleviation programs

96. With rapid economic growth, most East Asian countries have successfully reduced poverty over the past two decades. However, as of 1998, the region still had 278 million poor people living on less than one US dollar a day. In addition, the poor do not have enough food, adequate shelter, easy access to basic education and health care, protection from violence, or a voice in what happens in their communities. Poverty is one of the root-causes of various problems that threaten social justice and human security, creating regional instability. The recent financial crisis aggravated the situation. In this regard, regional cooperation is needed to significantly help less developed countries to fight poverty, illiteracy, and disease.
97. ASEAN countries have closely cooperated within the Framework Plan of Action on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication and the ASEAN Action Plan on Social Safety Nets. The project of Training of Facilitators on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication was completed in June 2001. The project of Building and/or Enhancing Capacities for Research, Assessment and Monitoring of Poverty in ASEAN countries is being developed. The ASEAN Foundation is expediting funding consideration for the projects on Training of Facilitators on Rural Development, enhancing public

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awareness and poverty assessment and monitoring under the Framework Plan of Action on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication. To fight poverty, Japan announced its position in "Japan's Medium-Term Policy on Official Development Assistance" in August 1999 that it would provide active support to the socially vulnerable to improve their living standards and domestic conditions, and adjust its assistance to poverty alleviation programs to conform to the needs and conditions of individual countries. Cooperation in East Asia could take the form of developing a program of follow-up activities for existing projects on poverty/social safety nets currently being implemented. Some issues which could be addressed are: the need for extending networking among poverty alleviation facilitators in the region; the need for improvement of data collection systems to meet specific crisis-generated needs; and the need for capacity-building for appropriate monitoring systems for poverty alleviation programs.

98. Poverty is not immutable. Economic growth can effectively reduce poverty when accompanied by a comprehensive program for social development. Therefore, every country needs to have a comprehensive national poverty reduction strategy that provides adequate budgetary allocations for human capital, targeting of basic social service for the poor, removal of gender discrimination, an effective population policy, and social protection. Moreover, countries should link their poverty programs to their national and international economic policies because this link will be crucial in a world of increasing economic interdependency.

3.1.13 Take concerted steps to provide access to primary healthcare for the people, particularly at-risk groups, with special attention to HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria

99. Providing primary healthcare is a main element of the welfare system of most countries. It not only guarantees the basic needs of the citizens but also helps them participate in economic activities without being troubled by diseases. However, many people in the East Asian region suffer from various diseases, including HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria. Moreover, there have been demographic transitions, such as urbanization, industrialization, migration, environmental change, socio-economic and political changes, and globalization. These have serious impacts on household formation, labor force participation, work environments, and consumption patterns, affecting lifestyles and health in the region.
100. Many East Asian countries are experiencing a double burden of diseases, whereby before the traditional infectious diseases have been fully controlled, non-infectious diseases and newly emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases are increasing.

The recent financial crisis has reduced people's access to primary healthcare in the region. Now, East Asian countries are urged to take concerted measures to tackle the issue of primary healthcare through cooperation among themselves.

101. ASEAN cooperation on health is governed by action plans on disease surveillance, tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS, community-based care for the elderly, and pharmaceuticals. Action programs on malaria control and dengue fever are currently under preparation. Recognizing that at least 1.6 million people are living with HIV/AIDS in the ASEAN region, and that the number is increasing rapidly, the leaders of ASEAN adopted the Summit Declaration on HIV/AIDS during the ASEAN Summit in Brunei Darussalam in November 2001. They also adopted Phase II of the ASEAN Work Program on HIV/AIDS, which will constitute an action program for implementing the directives in the Summit Declaration.
 102. To prevent the spread of infectious diseases effectively, East Asian countries are required to strengthen their cooperation in fighting diseases. It is desirable for Northeast Asian countries to support ASEAN countries' efforts to fight infectious diseases. Strengthening efforts of developed countries for improving access to primary healthcare for people of less developed countries will contribute to the control and prevention of infectious diseases and to poverty alleviation. Efforts for better healthcare systems will include the provision of technical cooperation, generic drugs, exchanges of healthcare experts, support for the education for public awareness, and special care programs for socially vulnerable groups, such as children, elderly people, and women.
 103. It is also necessary to accelerate the public-private partnership to improve healthcare conditions because the private sector can also play an important role in providing the required health services to citizens. In many countries, the number of commercial enterprises involved in the financing and delivery of health services has been increasing. NGOs have also played an important role in providing health services. In this regard, the governments of East Asian countries need to form a close partnership with the private sector in such a way that cooperation to provide healthcare will be efficient.
- 3.1.14 Strengthen mechanisms for cooperation on non-traditional security issues, including, in particular, mechanisms to stem the tide of piracy, drug trafficking, and cyber crime**
104. In the wake of globalization, various non-traditional security issues, such as piracy, drug trafficking, illegal migration, smuggling of small arms, money laundering, cyber crime, international terrorism, and other issues affecting human security, have

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become more organized, diversified, and pervasive. Transnational crime poses threats not only to security and stability, but also to economic development and prosperity. Especially, the terrorist attacks on the United States on 11 September 2001 have increased people's awareness of the severity, pervasiveness, and the international linkage of terrorism and new kinds of threats to security. As transnational crime becomes more organized and threatening, it becomes more and more urgent for the governments of East Asian countries to establish mechanisms for coordination and cooperation on the new security challenges that we are facing in today's global arena.

105. ASEAN has endeavored to deal with non-traditional security issues for decades. In 1976, leaders of the founding member countries of ASEAN adopted the Declaration of ASEAN Concord, which urged cooperation to prevent drug use and trafficking. Currently, ASEAN concentrates its efforts on combating drug trafficking on the ASEAN and China Cooperative Operations in Response to Dangerous Drugs (ACCORD). Japan and Korea, though not direct parties of ACCORD, highly appreciate the ACCORD Plan of Action and are able to continue to assist and enhance ownership of ASEAN countries and China to combat this problem. Japan is ready to consider providing up to US\$ 100,000 through the Japan-ASEAN General Exchange Fund. Such a move would lead towards greater linkages between ASEAN and the +3 countries.
106. Another matter of concern is the fact that the number of incidents of piracy is on the rise. Because shipping traffic is heavy in East Asia, concrete multilateral cooperation in this area is indispensable. Japan hosted the Regional Conference on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in April 2000 and the Asian Cooperation Conference on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in October 2001. The purpose of these Conferences was to discuss the perspective of medium-term and long-term regional cooperation on anti-piracy. The agenda dealt with in the conferences indicates serious efforts to lay the foundation of East Asian cooperation in combating piracy. In addition, the EASG appreciates the ongoing efforts made by ASEAN countries, China, Japan, and Korea, which attach great importance to the First Governmental Experts Working Group Meeting to develop a Regional Cooperation Agreement on Anti-Piracy in Asia held in Tokyo in July 2002. It recommended that ASEAN countries, China, Japan, and Korea make the utmost efforts to finalize and adopt the agreement text.
107. Cyber crime, likewise, is also a matter of growing concern. Recently, cyber crime has been and is having increasingly serious impacts on the peace, security, prosperity

and progress, and on the social and moral fabric of the East Asian region. In order to fight cyber crime effectively, East Asian countries should strengthen regional collaboration and enhance the capacity of law enforcement agencies with advanced equipment and experts, while working closely with INTERPOL, the UN, and its specialized agencies.

108. The ARF has served as an important forum to promote political and public awareness and to enhance commitment and cooperation in addressing non-traditional security issues. The ARF Experts' Group Meeting on Transnational Crime, held on two occasions – in Seoul in 2000 and in Kuala Lumpur in 2001 respectively – has actively and intensively discussed measures to eradicate transnational crimes, such as terrorism, piracy, illegal migration, and trafficking of small arms. At the ARF Meeting in Bandar Seri Begawan in July 2002, the ARF issued a Statement on Measures against Terrorism Financing and established an Inter-Sessional Meeting on Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime (ISM on CTTC). In this regard, the ASEAN+3 Foreign Ministers Meeting in Bandar Seri Begawan on 30 July 2002 welcomed China's proposal to convene the ASEAN+3 Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime, which could be held back-to-back with the Fourth ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (AMM-TC) in Thailand in 2003.
109. ASEAN has progressively intensified its efforts to combat transnational crimes. In 1997, ASEAN issued the ASEAN Declaration on Transnational Crime as the basic framework for regional cooperation to combat transnational crimes. As a follow-up to that Declaration, ASEAN adopted the ASEAN Plan of Action to Combat Transnational Crime in 1999 and subsequently drew up the Work Program to implement the ASEAN Plan of Action to Combat Transnational Crime, which entails information exchange, cooperation in legal matters, law enforcement, training and institutional capacity- building, as well as extra-regional cooperation. Under the Ha Noi Plan of Action, ASEAN is strengthening the regional capacity to address all major forms of transnational crime. It will be an effective way to enhance regional cooperation for China, Japan, and Korea to participate in the activities of ASEAN on combating transnational crimes and to provide necessary assistance and expertise. In this regard, the Work Program to Implement the ASEAN Plan of Action to Combat Transnational Crime could serve as a basis to facilitate ASEAN+3 cooperation. In addition, in accordance with the agreement to establish a consultative mechanism among the police authorities of China, Japan, and Korea at the summit meeting of the leaders of the three countries on the occasion of the ASEAN+3 Summit held in Brunei Darussalam in 2001, Korea hosted the Consultative Meeting among Police

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Authorities on Transnational Crime in April 2002 in Seoul. The Meeting discussed, among other matters, coordination of all the security measures for the 2002 FIFA World Cup, as well as mutual cooperation on drug trafficking, organized crime, and cyber terrorism.

3.1.15 Work together with cultural and educational institutions to promote a strong sense of identity and an East Asian consciousness

110. The EAVG Report proposed the formation of an East Asian community of peace, prosperity and progress for the full development of all people in the region. Common interests and regional identity will expedite genuine regional cooperation.
111. Fostering a strong sense of East Asian identity and congeniality is essential for expediting genuine regional cooperation and, moreover, for helping reach the ultimate goal of East Asian integration. Together with the concrete measure, "Promote East Asian studies in the region," East Asian countries should attach great importance to the issue of regional identity and work closely to develop it. Building a strong sense of identity and an East Asian consciousness is a goal to be sought through continuous efforts by both government and civic leaders, since it is related to having people realize the common fate of the region and to changing the way of thinking. In this regard, cultural and educational institutions will be the main actors in promoting a sense of identity through education, publicity, and research. They will provide regional people with information and knowledge on the historical background of the region and on both similar and different aspects of culture. They will also provide the ways and means for the people to strengthen their identity.
112. Efforts have already been made among the ASEAN countries. The Fourth ASEAN Summit held in Singapore in 1992 emphasized the need to speed up the development of a regional identity and solidarity within the major ASEAN universities. Furthermore, the ASEAN Foundation was launched in July 1998, based in Jakarta, and intended to promote greater awareness of ASEAN among ordinary people in member countries and increase opportunities for contact among the people of ASEAN countries. In addition, the ASEAN Committee on Culture and Information has continuously undertaken programs that will further enhance mutual understanding and solidarity among ASEAN countries and its people.
113. ASEAN's efforts for promoting regional identity have paved the way for developing East Asian identity. It will help link scholars and historians of ASEAN countries with those of China, Japan, and Korea. Moreover, the ASEAN Committee on Culture and Information and one of the institutes of China, Japan, or Korea could serve as focal points to develop cooperation among institutions to promote East Asian identity and

consciousness. However, building a sense of East Asian identity requires active and continuous support by the governments of East Asian countries because regional identity cannot be built in the short-term. With support from the governments, more educational and cultural institutions of Northeast Asian countries will be able to engage in intensive cooperation and collaborative projects with related institutions and universities of ASEAN countries.

3.1.16 Promote networking and exchanges of experts in the conservation of the arts, artifacts, and cultural heritage of East Asia

114. With a long history of civilization of more than 5,000 years and a variety of cultural and religious backgrounds, the East Asian region boasts an abundance of arts, artifacts, and cultural heritage. The cultural affinity among countries in East Asia also shows that people in the region have been sharing culture and ways of life that transcend the distinction between Northeast Asia and Southeast Asia. Due to economic, political, and social problems, however, some countries in the East Asian region have difficulties in conserving and developing arts, artifacts, and cultural heritage effectively and are experiencing the erosion of their valuable cultural resources. Therefore, enhancing regional cooperation in the field of culture will bear fruit in conserving the arts, artifacts, and cultural heritage, and in fostering a sense of regional identity.
115. The promotion of networking and exchanges of experts will be a good way to utilize knowledge and information of experts of nations in the region. Networking and people-to-people exchange programs will also activate the systematic documentation of cultural resources in the region through close consultation and cooperation among experts. The systematic documentation through research, video, or publication not only ensures preservation of the cultural heritage but also enhances further awareness of the need for its revitalization. The involvement of young people in the programs of conserving cultural heritage is important because it will foster their appreciation, respect, and understanding of the rich heritage of East Asian cultures and traditions, which is necessary for tomorrow's decision-makers.
116. East Asian countries are making efforts to protect cultural heritage. Mindful of the urgency to take action, ASEAN adopted the ASEAN Declaration on Cultural Heritage at the 33rd ASEAN Ministerial Meeting and a Memorandum of Understanding in 2000 to carry out national campaigns to promote ASEAN's thrusts in conserving cultural resources. An ASEAN youth camp and a people-to-people exchange program were implemented to conserve cultural heritage. Moreover, it is desirable to expand ASEAN's efforts to East Asian countries for conserving cultural resources. Within

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ASEAN, a networking system is being put in place through the ASEAN Cultural Heritage Information Network. This portal site can be linked up with related sites in East Asia.

3.1.17 Promote East Asian studies in the region

117. Promoting regional study of East Asia is another important aspect of developing the sense of identity of East Asia. It will provide East Asian people with knowledge to understand the commonality of historical experiences and cultural norms and values of East Asia, and it will also remind them of the need to facilitate regional integration. Member countries should encourage their educational and research institutions to establish East Asian studies courses/programs through financial and institutional assistance. Furthermore, the inclusion of the study of East Asian languages will enhance mutual understanding among East Asians. Through cooperative programs of study, research, workshops, and seminars among relevant institutions in the region, the promotion of East Asian studies will be further accelerated. The establishment of networks among regional study programs will also be an effective way to boost the exchange of knowledge and information.
118. ASEAN has actively promoted ASEAN studies in universities in member countries; the ASEAN University Network (AUN) has been a major contributor in these efforts to promote ASEAN studies. In supporting the establishment of ASEAN studies courses/programs in member universities, a summary report on existing courses or programs on ASEAN studies has been compiled to serve as a reference for the further development of ASEAN studies programs with a common regional content. The AUN has also developed course syllabi and identified course materials for ASEAN studies. The course syllabi and materials will ultimately be developed into an ASEAN Studies Program, which will also be made available on-line.
119. The EASG appreciates the ongoing efforts made by ASEAN countries to promote ASEAN studies and recognizes that these efforts should be expanded to cover the whole East Asian region. The ASEAN Committee on Culture and Information is able to support the promotion of East Asian Studies because its efforts in producing source materials for the teaching of Southeast Asian culture and history can be expanded to cover East Asia. Up to now, China, Japan, and Korea have carried out the collaborative programs for closer partnership among academics. ASEAN and Korea have been implementing the Academic Exchange Program between the AUN and the Korean Association for South East Asian Studies (KASEAS). Japan has also been collaborating with the AUN in higher education through the Southeast Asia Engineering Education Development Network. Possible collaboration between

China and ASEAN is also under exploration. These efforts can be combined to cover the whole region of East Asia. Thus, it will be possible for East Asian studies to be conducted with enhanced efficiency and effectiveness, making a significant contribution to the development of a true sense of East Asian identity.

3.2 Medium-term and Long-term Measures, and Those that Require Further Studies

3.2.1 Form an EAFTA

120. The EASG recommends this measure as a long-term measure with high priority. FTAs are increasingly recognized as a means to expand trade and investment opportunities, promote economic growth and sustainable development, and catalyze other forms of cooperation among countries of the region. Now, there are growing numbers of bilateral and regional FTAs all over the world, with the belief that FTAs can accelerate the momentum of trade liberalization and strengthen the WTO-centered multilateral trading system. NAFTA and MERCOSUR have been successfully operating. Moreover, the introduction of the EURO has accelerated the integration of the EU. These trends have increased the need to enhance and deepen economic cooperation in the East Asian region through the efforts for an EAFTA. The realization of an EAFTA would boost intra-regional trade and investment with the creation of a huge market of almost 2 billion people, the largest in the world.
121. In the East Asian region, efforts for establishing FTAs are already underway. ASEAN has been continuing its efforts to implement the accelerated schedule of the ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA), as agreed by the Sixth ASEAN Summit in 1998. At the ASEAN+1 Summit in 2001, China and ASEAN agreed to form an FTA within 10 years with special and differential treatment and flexibility to the new ASEAN countries. Japan and ASEAN have been doing a joint study for Closer Economic Partnership (CEP). Korea and ASEAN are also considering the possibility of establishing an FTA. In addition to the efforts for the sub-regional FTAs, many countries in the region are involved in discussions on strengthening the economic partnerships at the bilateral level. In this regard, Japan and Singapore have already concluded the Agreement for a New- Age Economic partnership (JSEPA). Moreover, Japan has begun its work to build up economic partnerships in a bilateral framework with other ASEAN countries. Japan is ready for consultations on an economic partnership based upon the framework of JSEPA or for making that framework a reference. As the EAVG Report clearly stated, the establishment of an EAFTA could be achieved by adopting a building block approach, and consolidating the existing bilateral and sub-regional FTAs in the region. In this regard, the ongoing progress in the discussions of establishing many bilateral and sub- regional FTAs could pave the way for

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establishing an EAFTA.

122. The EASG recommends that the governments of East Asian countries consider the establishment of an EAFTA as a long-term goal, taking into account the variety of differences in developmental stages and the varied interests of the countries in the region. In this regard, it is desirable for the governments of East Asian countries to conduct a study on the impacts of an EAFTA on the region with the active participation of experts from academic and business circles as a process to establish an FTA covering the whole region. In addition, transparency in implementation processes of bilateral and sub-regional FTAs is indispensable under the framework of ASEAN+3 consultations. Thus, the AEM+3 should be assigned to conduct a feasibility study on the benefits, challenges, and implications of an EAFTA and to recommend the appropriate architecture of the EAFTA. In order to realize the idea of an EAFTA, it is important that the feasibility and the influences of the EAFTA be discussed not only in the AEM+3 meetings but also in the ASEAN+3 Foreign Ministers Meeting.
123. East Asian countries should also encourage investment among themselves and dismantle trade barriers because trade and investment are virtually inseparable elements, crucial in the process of deepening and broadening regional economic cooperation. As two sides of the same coin, the promotion of the one may also help boost the other and vice versa. In this regard, the EASG recommends that the formation of an EAFTA go hand in hand with the establishment of an East Asian Investment Area.

3.2.2 Promote investment by SMEs

124. The EASG recommends this measure as a medium-term measure with high priority. Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) are indispensable for economic growth. As important providers of intermediate goods and services, the development of SMEs contributes to industrial growth and fosters competitiveness. SMEs also supply ideas, skills, and innovation. Strong SME sectors attract foreign investors and enable them to establish and expand domestic linkages. Moreover, SMEs play a key role in improving employment and welfare. The promotion of SMEs in labor-intensive industries will create more jobs and generate more household income. SMEs thus play a critical role in achieving equitable and sustainable growth.
125. However, SMEs need an appropriate administrative support system to maximize their potential because they are normally vulnerable due to their small size and low capability. They face many challenges that prevent them from achieving their full potential. These challenges are particularly significant in the areas of HRD and

access to financing, markets, technology, and information. To promote investment by SMEs, governments should eliminate administrative impediments to SMEs' operations. In addition, governments should provide SMEs with better access to finance because SMEs tend to have difficulties accessing banks or capital market funds, due to lack of assets or track records. Moreover, SMEs need support from appropriate business development services in management, training, marketing, technology, and information.

126. As it is clearly stated in the Joint Statement on East Asia Cooperation issued in November 1999, the leaders of ASEAN countries, China, Japan, and Korea agreed to bolster efforts to strengthen SMEs. It must be noted that in ASEAN, SMEs account for about 90% of all manufacturing establishments, and they constitute the majority of industrial enterprises. Since East Asian countries attach great importance to the development of SMEs, they should cooperate to promote intra-regional investment by SMEs because closer regional cooperation would further widen the window of opportunity for SMEs. Through cooperation with each other, SMEs may reduce costs, share risks, and foster exchanges of information and know-how. Encouraging SMEs in the region to have joint ventures or linkages with other member countries' SMEs will contribute to the promotion of intra-regional investment by SMEs. Establishing a database on investment policies and opportunities of East Asian countries will also facilitate intra-regional investment by SMEs because it will provide potential investors with information on foreign investment.
127. The EASG notes that the idea of establishing an ASEAN+3 SME network will facilitate intra-regional investment by SMEs in the East Asian region. The SME network will help disseminate information on markets for the SMEs, address and solve complaints in relation to the investment, and boost competitiveness of participating SMEs. The EASG recommends that the governments of ASEAN countries, China, Japan, and Korea participate actively in establishing the SME network.

3.2.3 Establish an East Asia Investment Area by expanding the AIA

128. The EASG recommends this measure as a long-term measure with high priority. The importance of FDI has been growing for the economic development of the newly industrializing and developing countries in East Asia. In the era of globalization, the developing countries in East Asia that are lacking capital for new entrepreneurial activities have been turning their eyes to foreign investors as a new source of capital. On the other hand, the region also has several countries that are rich in capital and have many enterprises seeking relocation of their companies or factories. Therefore, the establishment of an investment area in the region will greatly contribute to

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promoting intra-regional FDI because it will provide greater scope for division of labor and industrial activities across the region, creating opportunities for greater industrial efficiency and cost competitiveness. Moreover, it will encourage investors to think increasingly in regional terms and to adopt a regional investment strategy and network of operations.

129. The leaders of ASEAN countries, China, Japan, and Korea agreed, in the Joint Statement on East Asia Cooperation issued in November 1999, to strengthen efforts in accelerating investments. The progress of the implementation of the Joint Statement was made through various efforts of ASEAN countries, China, Japan, and Korea. As for the efforts made by ASEAN, the ASEAN Vision 2020 adopted in 1997 states that ASEAN will realize the AIA by 2010 and free flow of investments by 2020.
130. ASEAN has already been making efforts to establish an investment area, since the signing of the Framework Agreement on the AIA in Manila on 7 October 1998 by ASEAN ministers. Under the AIA arrangement, ASEAN countries are committed to opening up manufacturing, agriculture, forestry, fisheries and mining sectors, and to granting national treatment to ASEAN investors by 2010 and to all investors by 2020, with each country having some exceptions. In order to attract larger volumes of FDI, full realization of the AIA would be advanced from 2020 to 2010 for the first six member countries of ASEAN and to 2015 for the newer member countries. The ASEAN region is a leading recipient of FDI flows in the developing world. Among the components of resource flows into ASEAN countries, FDI constitutes a considerable share, indicating the importance of FDI as a major source of finance for economic development. Between 1990 and 1997, FDI represented an annual average of 40 % of the net resource flows to ASEAN countries. In Northeast Asia, meanwhile, Japan and Korea signed the Agreement for the Liberalization, Promotion and Protection of Investment in March 2002. Under the Agreement, the two countries extend equal treatment to investors of the other country except in certain areas. Moreover, the process of strengthening the economic partnerships between Japan and ASEAN is underway.
131. The EASG recommends that East Asian countries review the possibility of establishing an EAIA with a view to fully utilizing the region's potential for economic growth. The establishment of an EAIA will not only help increase the foreign investment flows to the developing countries in the region but will also benefit the developed countries in the region by expanding the window of opportunity to invest. Any plans to establish an EAIA should be carefully studied, since the Framework Agreement has no provision to extend the membership to non-ASEAN countries.

Moreover, the expansion may be construed as discrimination to other investors outside of this arrangement. In this regard, the EASG calls for the governments of the region to carefully review the possibility of establishing an EAIA over a longer period of time. To this end, a study could be carried out to examine how to bring about the EAIA.

3.2.4 Establish a regional financing facility

132. The EASG recommends further study of this measure with high priority. In the era of globalization of financial markets and worldwide liberalization of capital flows, even countries with sound and stable financial structures cannot be immune to the difficulties of neighboring countries. Having achieved impressive economic development, the East Asian region was startled by and unprepared for the devastating financial crisis in 1997. Unlike previous crises, such as the one during the oil shocks in the 1970s, the crisis in 1997 has revealed not only the vulnerability of East Asian countries to conditions arising from the globalization of financial markets and massive capital flows, but also the fragility of their financial structure. The crisis was a wake-up call for East Asian countries to establish measures to cooperate and to coordinate their financial policies to prevent the recurrence of such a crisis and minimize its effects, should another financial crisis erupt.
133. Since the Asian financial crisis, various efforts have been made to strengthen financial cooperation. At the global level, discussions have been made to reform the international financial architecture to better cope with the more integrated international financial market. At the various international forums, such as the IMF and G7, the focus has been on restructuring of international financial facilities, increasing the transparency of financial information, strengthening the prudential regulations on the financial market, and introducing a better exchange rate system. At the regional level, finance ministers of ASEAN countries, China, Japan, and Korea, in recognition of financial interdependence in East Asia, agreed to strengthen a regional financing arrangement to supplement existing international facilities in May 2000. The Initiative, called the "Chiang Mai Initiative," consists of two components: an expanded ASEAN Swap Arrangement and a network of Bilateral Swap Arrangements (BSAs) among ASEAN countries, China, Japan, and Korea. Now, eight BSAs between Japan-Korea, Japan-Thailand, Japan-the Philippines, Japan-Malaysia, China-Thailand, China-Japan, China-Korea, and Korea- Thailand, with a combined size of US\$ 22 billion, have been signed as a short-term liquidity support. Negotiations on several other BSAs are underway.
134. The Chiang Mai Initiative will assist member countries in need of funding and

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supplement the IMF program at a time of crisis. The Chiang Mai Initiative is very significant, since it is the first concrete agreement among ASEAN countries, China, Japan, and Korea to strengthen cooperation in the financial area. Starting from the Chiang Mai Initiative, East Asian countries will be able to broaden and deepen their cooperation and coordination to ensure financial stability for further economic development. In addition to the Chiang Mai Initiative, other appropriate mechanisms for regional financial arrangements should be explored in order to lessen the financial risks and contagion brought about by increasingly interdependent global financial systems. As an initial step, studies on regional self-help and liquidity support mechanisms should be conducted.

135. During the early days of the Asian financial crisis, Japan suggested that an Asian Monetary Fund (AMF) could help East Asian economies in trouble and check financial contagion in the region. Though there are pros and cons to the idea of establishing an AMF, a regional financing facility could provide financial resources to supplement IMF programs in the region. The IMF itself cannot fully provide enough funding for affected countries during a crisis as severe as the Asian financial crisis of 1997. Therefore, it is necessary to have supplementary funding available on a permanent and assured basis. In this regard, it is worthwhile to study the establishment of a regional financing facility. When studying it, East Asian countries need to be in harmony with the discussion on the reform of the financial system at the international level.

3.2.5 Pursue a more closely coordinated regional exchange rate mechanism consistent with both financial stability and economic development

136. The EASG recommends further study of this measure with high priority. While it is very difficult to spell out in comprehensive terms exactly what caused the recent Asian financial crisis, it is clear that the crisis was largely due to a rapid outflow of short-term capital, which had been a huge inflow in the first half of the 1990s. Moreover, the lack of coordination of the exchange rate mechanisms among East Asian countries worsened the crisis. The fact that many ASEAN countries pegged their currencies to the US dollar, worsened their economic situation and drained their foreign currency assets. The crisis increased and spread to Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia, Hong Kong, and Korea, causing East Asian countries to fall into the spiral. Having been hit by the crisis, countries in the region have become aware of the need to coordinate the exchange rate mechanism in the region for both financial stabilization and economic development.
137. ASEAN countries, China, Japan, and Korea maintain different exchange rate systems

given their different economic conditions and policies. First, there are some countries with a fixed exchange rate and selected capital controls or de-internationalization of the domestic currency. The second method uses a fixed exchange rate with a currency board. The third kind of exchange rate mechanism is a managed float of various kinds. Given the variety of exchange rate systems, together with deepening interdependence among East Asian countries, a more closely coordinated exchange rate mechanism is becoming essential for financial stability in the region.

138. Even though the adoption of a single currency for the region can be one possible option as the strongest form of coordination, differences in developmental stages and economic backgrounds among East Asian countries will remain major stumbling blocks to the creation of it, at least for the foreseeable future. Still, East Asian countries should pursue ways to coordinate their exchange rate mechanisms and keep their exchange rate mechanisms within reasonable ranges in order to maintain financial stability and accommodate some volatility of international capital movement in order that economic growth can be sustained without sudden external shock. Presently, it may not be possible for the financial authorities in the region to come up with firm rules, but frequent consultation among regional authorities and some coordinated actions in both monetary and foreign exchange areas can be sought. In ASEAN, a study to look at currency issues and exchange rate arrangements is already being implemented under the ASEAN Finance Work Program. ASEAN countries, China, Japan, and Korea need to extend the study in the East Asian region.

3.2.6 Pursue the evolution of the ASEAN+3 Summit into an East Asian Summit

139. The EASG recommends this measure as a long-term measure with high priority. Growing interdependence and the recent financial crisis in East Asia have provided a strong impetus for institutionalizing cooperation in this region. As a way to institutionalize regional cooperation, the EAVG recommended that East Asian countries pursue the evolution of the ASEAN+3 Summit into an East Asian Summit. At the Singapore ASEAN+3 Summit in 2000, a number of leaders suggested the idea of an East Asian Summit (EAS). Following the initiation from the leaders, the EASG has been assigned the task of exploring the implications of an EAS.
140. Through in-depth study and discussions, the EASG has come to the conclusion that, as a long-term desirable objective of the ASEAN+3, the EAS will serve to strengthen regional cooperation in East Asia. The EASG is of the opinion that the ASEAN+3 framework remains the only credible and realistic vehicle to advance the form and substance of East Asian cooperation. The EASG also stresses that the EAS should

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be part of an evolutionary and step-by-step process. To ensure the broadest level of acceptance, there is a need to gradually build up a similar comfort level among ASEAN countries, China, Japan, and Korea.

141. As one of the two major tasks of the EASG, detailed study results on the implications of an East Asian Summit are in Part III of this Report.

3.2.7 Promote closer regional marine environmental cooperation for the entire region

142. The EASG recommends this measure as a long-term measure with high priority. With vast spanning coastline and major shipping sea-lanes, the East Asian region's rich marine resources have long been central to its development because the resources provide food, employment, and economic welfare. In many parts of the region, dynamic economic development has been made mostly in coastal areas but at the expense of the environment, from upstream pollution, domestic and industrial effluent, more areas of landfill, increased dredging, and the erosion of coastlines and coastal habitats. The rapid economic growth has also put enormous pressures on the marine environmental situation of the region. Over-fishing, excessive exploitation of the coral reef, sea grass and mangrove, and expansion of aquaculture farms have further damaged the marine environment and resources in the region. Moreover, oil spills have become serious along major shipping routes in recent years.
143. Aware of the seriousness of marine environmental problems, the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) introduced the Regional Seas Program in 1974, which has provided the most comprehensive institutional framework for regional cooperation in the seas and oceans. China, Japan, and Korea belong to the North-West Pacific Plan (NOWPAP). Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Viet Nam, China, and Korea are participating in the East Asian Seas Action Plan. The Action Plans draw the strategy and substance of the programs, based on the region's particular environmental challenges, as well as its socio-economic and political situation.
144. However, to preserve the marine environment in the East Asian region effectively, it may be insufficient that the governments of ASEAN countries, China, Japan, and Korea simply participate in the Work Plans of the UNEP regional programs. As economic relations are further expanding and deepening among East Asian countries, closer regional cooperation in protection and preservation of the marine environment becomes more important. To effectively deal with the marine pollution which may affect more than one country, what is required is the strengthening of regional cooperation to cover the entire region by transcending the geographical

distinction between Northeast Asia and Southeast Asia, while consolidating collaboration with the relevant activities of other international organizations in the region.

145. East Asian countries have made great efforts to preserve the marine environment on a regional basis. The ASEAN Working Group on Coastal and Marine Environments has overseen ASEAN cooperation on the protection of the coastal and marine environment in Southeast Asia. The Working Group will focus on the promotion of regional policies and activities for prevention and control of marine pollution and management of ASEAN coastal zones as generally identified in the Ha Noi Plan of Action. Moreover, ASEAN will develop a Regional Action Plan for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based and Sea-based Activities by 2004, according to the Ha Noi Plan of Action.
146. Northeast Asian countries have also accelerated their efforts to effectively preserve their marine environment. Since 1999, China, Japan, and Korea have held an annual Tripartite Environment Ministers Meeting (TEMM) to discuss issues of mutual concern, including land-based marine pollution prevention, and to further strengthen trilateral environmental cooperation. To prevent the degradation of the marine environment, Japan organized the Cooperative Marine Environmental Monitoring in the Asian Marginal Seas Meeting in 1998 and 2000, with the participation of environmental scientists from China, Korea, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, and Viet Nam.
147. Regional cooperation will provide a useful vehicle for addressing environmental issues of common concern. Now, ASEAN countries, China, Japan, and Korea are moving towards strengthening and institutionalizing cooperation in the entire region. In this regard, the EASG welcomes the launching of the ASEAN+3 Environment Ministers Meeting starting from 2002 because cooperation in marine pollution prevention will also be intensively discussed at the Meeting. The official mechanism to address environmental issues will have synergetic effects by combining the efforts of each sub- region for marine environmental protection and will offer valuable opportunities to share information and technology related to the environment.

3.2.8 Build a framework for energy policies and strategies, and action plans, such as the trans- ASEAN energy network projects: special attention for electrification and energy needs of the rural population

148. The EASG recommends that this measure receive further study with high priority. Energy is playing a central role in achieving the goals of sustainable development, as well as improving the quality of people's lives. Energy consumption activities are

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closely linked with economic and social development. Therefore, an increase in demand for energy is inescapable in view of the high economic growth prospects in East Asian countries. With the recovery from the recent financial crisis, most countries in the region will face soaring energy demands. Sustainable energy development requires cooperation among countries because fossil fuels can be depleted and produce pollution. As the East Asian region includes both net energy exporting and importing countries, there is room for further cooperation in the field of energy. Because many people in the East Asian rural areas are not able to access electricity and depend heavily on traditional sources of energy, regional cooperation should also underscore electrification and energy needs of the rural population in the region.

149. Now, East Asia is experiencing a growth in the demand for energy that is outgrowing supply within the region and is thus becoming increasingly vulnerable in energy security. The strengthening of energy security in Asia has, therefore, become a pressing issue, and requires a joint effort involving the whole region. In this regard, it is important for the region to build a framework for energy policies and strategies, and action plans, such as the trans-ASEAN energy network projects. However, it is not easy to build a common East Asian framework for energy policies and strategies that will be supportive of sustainable energy development because there exists disparities in stages of economic development in the East Asian region, and the energy demand-supply situation varies widely by country. Therefore, it will be appropriate and realistic to take a step by step approach, starting with having common understanding on the direction of regional energy cooperation and gradually broadening the areas of cooperation. The EASG recognizes that the Seminar on Energy Security in Asia held in March 2002 in Japan was meaningful in fostering a common understanding on the direction of cooperation on energy among ASEAN countries, China, Japan, and Korea. It recognizes that the first SOME+3 Consultations held in July 2002 in Indonesia also contributed to the enhancement of closer policy discussions among ASEAN countries, China, Japan, and Korea.
150. East Asian countries are reviewing various energy network projects. Northeast Asian entities are exploring various proposals on large energy projects, such as the Energy Silk Route Project and the Irkutsk Gas Project. However, these proposals all face formidable political, economic, technical, and environmental obstacles that must be overcome before being implemented. Energy has played a vital part in moving ASEAN countries towards economic integration. With the vast reserves of 22 billion barrels of oil, 227 trillion cubic feet of natural gas, 46 billion tons of

coal, 234 gigawatts of hydropower, and 20 gigawatts of geothermal capacity, the countries have actively pursued cooperation for the full utilization of their energy potentials. The ASEAN Vision 2020 adopted in 1997 calls for cooperation to establish interconnecting arrangements for electricity and natural gas within ASEAN through the ASEAN Power Grid and the Trans-ASEAN Gas Pipeline. Under the Ha Noi Plan of Action for the energy sector, ASEAN countries are to institute the policy framework and implementation modalities by 2004 for early realization of the Trans-ASEAN Gas Pipeline and the ASEAN Power Grid. The ASEAN Plan of Action for Energy Cooperation 1999-2004 reiterates the implementation of an integrated ASEAN energy network, consisting of the ASEAN Power Grid and Trans-ASEAN Gas Pipeline Projects.

151. The EASG appreciates the comprehensive efforts of ASEAN for intra-regional energy cooperation and suggests that China, Japan, and Korea actively support and participate in the efforts of ASEAN. The vast energy network projects cannot be realized without information-sharing, greater access to advanced technology, and mobilization of necessary financing. Closer regional cooperation in energy development will help realize the projects and contribute to strengthening the region's energy security. It is worthwhile to bear in mind that regional energy cooperation is also viable with close collaboration with countries outside the region, since East Asian countries alone are not able to secure a stable supply of energy. Close coordination with international organizations and multilateral frameworks is also instrumental in strengthening the region's energy security.

3.2.9 Work closely with NGOs in policy consultation and coordination to encourage civic participation and state-civil society partnerships

152. The EASG recommends further study of this measure with high priority. As the society becomes diversified and complicated, more and more new social problems are emerging, making it more and more difficult for governments, with their limited capacity, to respond effectively to the problems. With the development of democracy, the influence of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) has made it difficult for governments to implement their policies without the cooperation of NGOs. Therefore, governments have recognized the need to develop cooperation and coordination with NGOs for smooth implementation of their policies.
153. In most cases, the efficiency of social programs, especially in poverty reduction and social safety net programs, can be enhanced by improving transparency, enhancing the quality of information-reporting, increasing monitoring of leakage, strengthening the involvement of civil society, and disseminating more information on programs

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down to the grassroots level. NGOs are able to serve as watchdogs in ensuring effective delivery of social services to designated target groups, pointing out where governments need to improve their performance. In addition, NGOs often have the best knowledge of local communities and their needs, although they sometimes lack material resources. However, NGOs alone cannot ensure the success of social programs. A strategic partnership between governments and NGOs tends to increase the possibility of the success of social programs. With the recent financial crisis, many East Asian countries have faced growing needs to strengthen social programs and improve their efficiency. In this regard, the EASG emphasizes the importance of the collaboration between government and NGOs, and government-social partnership in carrying out social programs, such as poverty alleviation and social safety net programs.

154. In order to enhance NGOs' contribution to the delivery of social services, the governments of East Asian countries need to promote their participation in the process of planning and implementing social programs, with special attention to NGOs' activities that are related with the welfare of disadvantaged and vulnerable people. The governments also need to establish legislative and regulatory frameworks, under which the NGOs can participate in social development programs and strategies. In addition, it is necessary for the governments to improve capacity-building for civil society and people's organizations. Finally, networking and exchanges of expertise and experience among the NGOs should also be strengthened.
155. East Asian countries can cooperate to improve capacity-building for civic participation and state-civil society partnerships in East Asia by fostering awareness and understanding of the importance of the civil society's participation in social programs. Sharing information and experiences on the best practices among the countries will also contribute to promoting collaboration between governments and NGOs in policy consultation and coordination on social programs. Enhanced collaboration between governments and NGOs will promote NGOs' activities and deepen intra-regional cooperation among NGOs in East Asia. Intra-regional cooperation among NGOs will not only contribute to closer partnerships between governments and civil society but will also promote a sense of identity among East Asian people.
156. It will also be necessary for East Asian countries to encourage NGOs to participate in the field of development assistance because NGOs, as grassroots organizations, have direct contact with beneficiaries of the assistance, and can provide such a service as building organizational structures for developmental projects in rural

areas.

III. ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPLICATIONS OF AN EAST ASIAN SUMMIT

Background

157. The growth and evolution of cooperation in East Asia – i.e., ASEAN countries, China, Japan, and Korea – is both inevitable and necessary. As one of the world's current leading centers of growth, East Asia has come to be regarded as one of the three major regions in the world.
158. In confronting similar challenges of nation-building and economic development with similar historical and cultural backgrounds, some countries in East Asia had, till the mid- 1990s, successfully attempted to develop cooperation, as exemplified by the formation and expansion of ASEAN and the long-lasting cooperative schemes between ASEAN and Japan, as well as in ASEAN's dialogue relations with China and Korea. Through their national resilience and sound development policies, many East Asian countries achieved rapid growth, which gave rise to regional prosperity and confidence, and in turn underlay a greater potential for East Asian integration. Nevertheless, such potential had not been commonly perceived seriously, and cooperation had not subsumed the whole East Asian region, till the Asian financial crisis in 1997 that poured cold water on East Asia's economic miracle. It was in fact this very event that tempered and toughened this region, re-awakening us to the value of working together and building a solid framework for cooperation in this region.
159. In this context, the leaders of the ASEAN+3 Summit agreed, in a Joint Statement on East Asia Cooperation issued in 1999 in Manila, '*to promote dialogue and to deepen and consolidate collective efforts...*' and '*to enhance this dialogue process and strengthen cooperation with a view to advancing East Asian collaboration in priority areas of shared interest and concern, even as they look to future challenges.*'

The Need for East Asian Cooperation

160. Statistics underline the importance of cooperation among countries in East Asia and reveal the tremendous potential for growth in this region and the rationale for creating a broader cooperative regional framework. East Asia represents 23% of the world's GDP and 40% of its foreign reserves. Investment has also continued to grow rapidly. East Asia constitutes roughly one third of the world's population, which points to the potential size of the growing East Asian market in the foreseeable future. These figures illustrate the increasing potential of East Asia to become one of the three major economic regions in the world.

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161. Also, through the Asian financial crisis, countries in East Asia realized the dark side of globalization, which could render individual East Asian countries more vulnerable to global economic forces. This crisis served as a warning signal that capital market destabilization could suddenly deprive people and countries of enormous economic benefits accumulated through their sustained trade and investment efforts. This provided a compelling reason for stronger economic integration and cooperation in East Asia to improve its economic stability and resilience in a form of regional cooperation and market integration, and triggered the formation of ASEAN+3 Summit Meeting in 1997 in Kuala Lumpur.
162. This development coincided with an emerging process to manage and overcome political difficulties, which had existed among nations in this region. In the past, political rivalries, historical animosities, and ideological confrontation posed barriers to cooperation. Southeast Asia achieved rapprochement as the Cold War regime crumbled. Regional cooperation has also enabled Northeast Asia to begin a process of dealing with sensitive historical memories, which had prevented their cooperation over the past half a century.

Development of East Asian Cooperation Underway

163. This nascent process took form when ASEAN initiated leaders' level meetings in 1997 with China, Japan, and Korea, building on its existing dialogue relations with them. This ASEAN+3 framework has currently been making steady headway towards future undertakings of regional cooperation. For the last five years, ASEAN+3 Summit Meetings have been held annually, while numerous ministerial meetings have also been convened, including Foreign, Finance, Economic, Tourism, Agriculture, Environment, and Labor Ministers Meetings. The ASEAN+3 process has provided a practical and ready-made mechanism to germinate the seeds for greater East Asian cooperation.
164. Actual cooperation has just begun to take shape in concrete measures. One effort currently underway is the Chiang Mai Initiative, whose goal is to construct regional mechanisms to avert recurrence of a financial crisis by, among other things, utilizing bilateral currency swap arrangements as a virtual safety net. Now, the visibility of a common basket of currencies has become higher. Beyond such cooperation in the financial sphere, similar concrete cooperative attempts to deal with problems in this region are needed.
165. Compared with the other major regions of the world, where efforts of cooperation and integration have been progressing at a rapid pace, as highlighted by expanding market integration in Europe and the move towards a free trade area of the Americas,

East Asia still needs to build up a durable institutional framework for region-wide dialogue and cooperation. There is a growing awareness among East Asian countries of the need for such a framework to manage the dynamic changes ahead.

Challenges for East Asia

166. ASEAN countries, China, Japan, and Korea share a common destiny. East Asia is our natural constituency, and Northeast Asia and Southeast Asia are inextricably intertwined economically, politically, and socially. The EAVG recommended "*the evolution of the annual summit meetings of ASEAN+3 into the East Asian Summit*" and the "*institutionalization of regional dialogues including regular meetings of Foreign Ministers and leaders of other sectors on the range of political and security-related subjects*" as a means to further strengthening this cooperation.
167. As mandated by the ASEAN+3 leaders, the EASG was set up "to explore practical ways and means to deepen and expand the existing cooperation" among those nations, and "prepare concrete measures and, as necessary, action plans for closer cooperation in various areas." The EASG, according to its terms of reference, has assessed the recommendations of the EAVG and explored the idea and implications of an East Asian Summit.
168. Some of the key issues the EASG had to consider were:
 - First, whether an EAS is the start point or end point of East Asian cooperation;
 - Second, how the pace and timing of the evolution would relate to the very process that the ASEAN+3 is trying to achieve; and
 - Third, what is the nature of the entity that we want to realize? Who will be the members, and what will be the criteria for membership?

State of Discussions

169. The EASG carried out extensive and candid discussions on the implications of an EAS to ASEAN and the broader region. Taking into account the extent and level of ASEAN+3 cooperation, the emerging sentiment at this juncture is that the ASEAN+3 framework represents the most viable and practical way to move the nascent East Asian process forward. There is also a general feeling that evolution of an EAS should proceed in a gradual and balanced way, and a building-block approach is the best way forward. The EASG's discussions have revealed a solid foundation and strata that can form the basis of a strong East Asian partnership. These foundational principles are:
 - East Asian cooperation is inevitable and necessary;
 - ASEAN should remain the driving force of East Asian cooperation;
 - Deeper integration of an East Asian community is beneficial and desirable;

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- Integration in East Asia will evolve over time as we consolidate the coherence, efficiency, and progress of the ASEAN+3 framework;
- Consolidation will require practical and concrete steps to enhance cooperation;
- An EAS is a desirable long-term objective, but it must be part of an evolutionary process that builds on the substantive comfort levels of the existing ASEAN+3 framework; and
- There should be continuing discussions to bridge the spectrum of views, in particular the following concerns, to forge greater understanding of the purpose and direction of East Asian cooperation, and to explore ways to advance the process:
 - How to build up comfort levels;
 - How to avoid marginalization of ASEAN;
 - Duplication/overlap of activities;
 - Need to give greater ownership to China, Japan, and Korea;
 - Proliferation of meetings;
 - Need for clarity of objectives and issues which the EAS should pursue;
 - Need for the ASEAN+3 framework to remain the vehicle in the East Asia process of integration; and
 - Participation issue in the ASEAN+3 context.

Moving Forward

170. To move forward, we should explore ways to address these concerns practically and concretely. One practical step could be to convene regular DG-level meetings of ASEAN countries, China, Japan, and Korea, which can ensure progress and coherence in practical cooperation.

IV. CONCLUSION/RECOMMENDATIONS

171. Growing interdependence in East Asia has called for strengthening cooperation between Northeast Asia and Southeast Asia. Since its inception in 1997, the ASEAN+3 process has taken up various measures to expand and deepen cooperation between the two regions. The recent financial crisis in East Asia has provided an impetus for structured cooperation between these regions, spurring the recognition that East Asia needs to institutionalize its cooperation. This cooperation is very important, since it transcends the distinction between Northeast Asia and Southeast Asia. The EAVG and the EASG, each a moving force behind the momentum of such East Asian cooperation, concluded their work in November 2001 and November 2002 respectively. It is important to maintain and develop the

- momentum of East Asian cooperation generated by the EAVG and the EASG.
172. This Report not only introduces ideas for regional cooperation in East Asia but also suggests implementable concrete measures, together with details about them, such as reasons for their selection, expected benefits, comments, and recommendations. In this Report, the EASG recommends twenty-six implementable concrete measures with high priority to strengthen and bring existing cooperation among East Asian countries to the next level. Most of the measures cannot be automatically implemented upon the submission of this Report to this ASEAN+3 Summit. How to implement each selected measure will require study and discussion by relevant cooperation platforms within the ASEAN+3 process. Support for the selection rationales and belief in the benefits to be produced by the selected measures will facilitate the implementation of the measures.
 173. Now, the remaining job – the implementation of the selected concrete measures in this Report – is up to member countries. The implementation of the measures requires a strong political commitment. The EASG recommends that East Asian countries prepare action plans on each concrete measure and have productive discussions on the action plans within the ASEAN+3 process. They should consolidate a cooperative spirit and implement as many measures as possible. While it may be more difficult to implement the measures than to prepare the action plans for their implementation, East Asian countries will overcome whatever difficulties rest on the path ahead.
 174. The successful implementation of the concrete measures recommended by this Report can trigger the full realization of the huge potentials of East Asia, enabling East Asian countries to accelerate regional cooperation and to reduce the existing developmental gaps in the region. Moreover, member countries will gain a better understanding of one another, and they will be able to develop greater trust among themselves through the implementation of the concrete measures. Meanwhile, the identity of East Asia will also be greatly fostered. Advanced mutual understanding and trust, together with strengthened regional identity, will promise a bright future for East Asia.
 175. Dramatically enhanced cooperation transcending the geographical distinction between Northeast Asia and Southeast Asia will prevent the recurrence of a financial crisis similar to the one that occurred in 1997; moreover, enhanced regional cooperation will minimize the effects of such a crisis, should it happen. Interdependence among East Asian countries will also deepen greatly. In addition, institutionalized regional cooperation will allow the region to overcome new

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challenges and utilize new opportunities effectively in the age of globalization and will therefore expedite regional integration. East Asia will become one of the most prosperous regions in the world. In the future, East Asians will ultimately be witnesses to the realization of the vision set out in the EAVG Report. Unlike in the last century, they will live in a region of peace, prosperity and progress in the new millennium.

Appendix

Terms of Reference of the East Asia Study Group

I. Objectives and Principles

1. The Leaders of the ASEAN+3 at their Singapore Summit on 24 November 2000 agreed to the establishment of the East Asia Study Group (EASG). The EASG will explore practical ways and means to deepen and expand the existing cooperation among ASEAN, the People's Republic of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea, and prepare concrete measures and, as necessary, action plans for closer cooperation in various areas.
2. In carrying out its activities, the EASG will be guided by the following principles:
 - 2.1 The EASG is part of the ASEAN+3 process.
 - 2.2 The East Asian cooperation should be pursued step-by-step to take into account the current status of the region and the diversity and the linkage of the economies, peoples and cultures of East Asia. It should also take into account the important role of ASEAN in advancing the peace, stability and development of the region.
 - 2.3 The EASG should pursue East Asian cooperation with an open posture to the rest of the world.
 - 2.4 the EASG should make its decision on the basis of consensus.
 - 2.5 the EASG should avoid duplication with existing regional bodies in terms of the scope and subjects of its activities.
 - 2.6 the EASG should promote East Asian cooperation with the aim of fostering a sense of common regional identity in East Asia.
 - 2.7 the EASG should pay attention to the need to reduce the existing development gaps in the region for mutual benefit.

II. Scope of Work

3. In the context of the Joint Statement on East Asia Cooperation of the ASEAN+3 Summit in Manila in 1999 and the discussions of the Leaders at their various ASEAN+3 Summits, the EASG will:
 - 3.1 assess the recommendations of the EAVG; and
 - 3.2 explore the idea and implications of an East Asian Summit.
4. Based on the results of its study and assessment, the EASG will sort out a practical number of concrete measures that should be given high priority and are relatively

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easy to carry out. In doing so, the EASG will take into account activities of the other ASEAN+3 forums.

5. In relation to the above, the EASG should take into account the decision of the ASEAN Foreign Ministers+3 Meeting on the modality for the implementation of the Joint Statement on East Asia Cooperation.

III. Modality

6. The EASG will consist of the 13 SOM leaders of the ASEAN Member Countries, the People's Republic of China, Japan, and the Republic of Korea, and the Secretary-General of ASEAN.
7. A Working Group will be set up to assist the EASG. It shall be at the level of Director-General designated by the governments and an ASEAN Secretariat official designated by the Secretary-General of ASEAN.
8. The timing of the EASG meetings will be appropriately coordinated with the schedule of ASEAN SOM while the timing of the Working Group meetings will be coordinated with the schedule of ASEAN Standing Committee.
9. Two Co-Chairmen for the EASG and for the Working Group, one from ASEAN Member Countries and the other from either the People's Republic of China, Japan or the Republic of Korea, will be appointed by each side. The Member Country chairing the ASEAN Standing Committee will act as the Coordinator for the ASEAN side whereas the People's Republic of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea will elect their own Coordinator. The Member Country of the EASG that will host each meeting will provide the administrative service such as the arrangement of meetings and documentation of the results.
10. The EASG will remain operative until the ASEAN+3 Summit in 2002. The EASG will report its progress to the ASEAN+3 Summit in 2001 and submit its final report to the ASEAN+3 Summit in 2002.

REPORT OF THE EAST ASIA VISION GROUP II (EAVGII)

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LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL OF THE EAST ASIA VISION GROUP II REPORT TO THE ASEAN PLUS THREE COMMEMORATIVE SUMMIT, 19 NOVEMBER 2012, PHNOM PENH, CAMBODIA

Your Majesty, Excellencies,

The East Asia Vision Group II (EAVGII) was established following the decision of the 13th ASEAN Plus Three Summit on 29 November 2010 in Ha Noi, Viet Nam.

Since its establishment, the EAVGII has actively worked during the past eleven months. It has met on four occasions, namely 20-22 October 2011 in Seoul, the Republic of Korea; 13-14 February 2012 in Nha Trang, Viet Nam; 7-9 May 2012 in Tokyo, Japan; and 5-7 September 2012 in Bali, Indonesia, to review the ASEAN Plus Three cooperation in the past 15 years, and to recommend concrete measures and direction for further enhancing, expanding and deepening ASEAN Plus Three cooperation in the next 15 years and beyond.

The EAVGII has adopted a forward-looking vision, with relevant strategies and guiding principles, and identified key elements for advancing the ASEAN Plus Three cooperation. We believe that such initiatives and recommendations are in line with the aspirations of the peoples of ASEAN Plus Three countries.

With the assistance of our supporting experts, we, the EAVGII have prepared the East Asia Vision Group II (EAVGII) Report with recommendations and hereby submit it for your kind consideration.

Please accept, Your Majesty, Excellencies, the assurances of our highest consideration.

Signed and submitted on 1st November 2012



H.E. Dr. Yoon Young-kwan

Professor of International Relations, Seoul National University and, Former Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Republic of Korea (Co-Chair)



H.E. Amb. Meas Kim Heng

Advisor to Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Cambodia (Co-Chair)



H.E. Dato Paduka Erywan Pehin Mohd Yusof

Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade
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H.E. Zhang Yunling

Professor, Academy Member and Director of International Studies, Chinese Academy of Social Science (CASS)
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H.E. Jusuf Wanandi

Co-founder and Vice Chairman, Board of Trustees of the Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) Foundation and Senior Fellow of the CSIS
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H.E. Dr. Tanaka Akihiko

President,
Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Japan



H.E. Phongsavanh Sisoulath

Deputy Director-General of the ASEAN Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Lao PDR



H.E. Dato Kamarudin Mustafa

Former Ambassador of Malaysia to Sweden, Denmark, Iceland and Norway
Malaysia



H.E. Than Tun

Member, Commission on Assessment of Legal Affairs and Special Issues, Pyithu Hlautlaw (Parliament)
Myanmar



H.E. Amb. Rosario G. Manalo

Representative of AICHER, and Concurrently Senior Foreign Affairs Advisor, Department of Foreign Affairs
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H.E. Amb. Chew Tai Soo

Ambassador-at-Large Ministry of Foreign
Affairs Singapore



H.E. Dr. Suthad Setboonsarng

Former Thailand Trade Representative
Thailand



H.E. Amb. Nguyen Hoang An

Former Ambassador of Socialist Republic of
Viet Nam to Indonesia
Viet Nam

**The East Asia Vision Group (EAVG) II Report:
Realising an East Asia Economic Community¹ by 2020**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The EAVG I was launched against the backdrop of the 1997 Asian financial crisis. East Asian nations then felt the need to mutually cooperate in overcoming the crisis, which served as a momentum to recognise an East Asian identity. As a result, East Asian nations institutionalised cooperation in political-security, economic-financial, socio-cultural realms, and began the process of building an East Asia community.
2. The EAVG II took stock of all of the ASEAN Plus Three (APT) cooperation activities and evaluated how these activities have contributed to developing the APT cooperation and community-building in East Asia. Based upon such stock-taking, the EAVG II studied the future direction of the APT cooperation mechanism, and also prepared a new vision for regional cooperation and community building.
3. The EAVG II recognises that the APT cooperation showed significant progress during the last decade. The core focus of cooperation in the political and security area was confidence-building, which helped to build the spirit of cooperation among participating countries. Cooperation in the economic and financial area has been the most advanced and has achieved many tangible results. Much progress has also been made in the area of socio- cultural cooperation.
4. The EAVG II recognises that there still remain many challenges, such as territorial disputes, an arms race, the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and non-traditional security issues that could seriously undermine peace and stability in East Asia. The EAVG II also recognises many new economic challenges such as the shrinking demand from outside the region and instability of the international financial market after 2008 global financial crisis. The EAVG II is concerned with socio-cultural challenges such as increase of aging population, decline of working age population, along with the growing development gap in the region and environmental challenges. In addition, the EAVG II recognizes the cross-cutting challenges such as natural disasters in which all the dimensions of political-security, economic-finance, and socio-cultural

1 It is the understanding of the EAVG II that the term "East Asia Economic Community" will be and remain an inter-governmental entity. It does not mean or imply that members of this community would be required to transfer any competence to any entity that may be created by the community. The General Principles outlined in Section IV of the Introduction remain applicable in the development of the East Asia Economic Community, in particular, the mutual respect for independence, sovereignty, equality, territorial integrity and national identity.

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cooperation are connected.

5. Faced with the challenges, the EAVG II recommends the realisation of an East Asia Economic Community by 2020 as the main pillar of our new vision. The East Asia Economic Community will be composed of four key elements: (i) single-market and production base;(ii) financial stability, food and energy security; (iii) equitable and sustainable development; and (iv) constructive contribution to the global economy. Our new vision, however, is not limited to the creation of the East Asia Economic Community. We need to enhance efforts of cooperation in political-security, as well as social-cultural areas. EAVG II also recognises the importance of cross-sectoral cooperation.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

6. The EAVG II makes the following recommendations for the realisation of an East Asia Economic Community by 2020:

Cross-sectoral Cooperation

- Promotion of regional connectivity in East Asia;
- Closer cooperation on disaster prevention and management;
- Undertaking of strategic programmes to produce a qualified, competent and well-equipped labour force;
- Narrowing the development gap through various economic development initiatives to contribute towards poverty alleviation; and
- Engagement of various stakeholders to reflect their views in the process of East Asia community building.

Political and Security Cooperation

- Promotion of good governance, strengthening of the rule of law, and promotion and protection of human rights through policy dialogue and capacity building activities;
- Enhanced cooperation in disarmament and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery and related materials; and
- Enhanced cooperation in addressing non-traditional security issues, particularly counter-terrorism, cybercrime, drug and human trafficking, and maritime security.

Economic Cooperation

- East Asia's proactive support for the establishment of a free trade area under the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership(RCEP);

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- Establishment of a region wide mechanism building on the ASEAN Single Window, once it is established, to integrate the trade-related windows of East Asian countries into a single unit;
- Conducting of a study on establishing an East Asia Infrastructure Investment Fund to expand private sector investment on infrastructure in East Asia;
- Conducting of a study to establish an appropriate mechanism to facilitate and coordinate efforts of promoting trade and investment;
- Conducting of a study to explore the usefulness of the establishment of an East Asia monetary fund;
- Expansion of issuance of government and corporate bonds denominated in local currency and strengthened function of Credit Guarantee and Investment Facility(CGIF);
- Expansion of the coverage of the APT Emergency Rice Reserve(APTERR) to include other staple food in times of emergency;
- Strengthening of cooperation efforts in the efficient supply and use of natural resources, energy saving practices, oil stockpiling, civilian use of nuclear energy, and development of green technology; and
- Creating of an East Asia Comprehensive Technology Research Institute.

Socio-cultural Cooperation

- Strengthening of joint R&D activities to further improve public health services of the region;
- Making greater efforts to reduce polarisation pertaining to urban-rural areas, domestic-external sectors, and large-small and medium sized companies;
- Joint efforts to address issues regarding regulation of migrant workers taking into account the fundamental rights and dignity of migrant workers without undermining the application by the receiving states of their laws, regulation and policies;
- Cooperation in improving access to education to help children complete primary education and to increase secondary school enrollment rates in less-developed countries;
- Facilitation for the leading universities in the region to establish a network of East Asian universities based on the ASEAN University Network platform;
- Reducing of the digital divide by more-advanced countries in the region offering comprehensive ICT training programmes to less-developed countries;
- Making efforts in forest cooperation through sound forest policies, proven technologies, research, community projects and education in the context of

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- sustainable forest management;
- Sharing of information on water resources management and coordinate policies together;
- Establishment of an Asian edition of UNESCO, to foster education and science and ensure the preservation of the historic sites and rich cultural heritage of the East Asia region;
- Strengthening of people-to-people connectivity through joint tour programmes, promotion of intra-regional travel through visa facilitation, as well as an East Asian volunteers' programme;
- Strengthening of cooperation of East Asian public broadcasting stations; and
- Increase of the support of East Asian nations for East Asian Studies at major universities.

Institutional Arrangements

- Review and streamlining of existing mechanisms to pursue East Asia community building in an effective manner;
- Further strengthening of the ASEAN Secretariat to better facilitate ASEAN Plus Three cooperation
- More and effective coordination between the ASEAN and the Trilateral Cooperation Secretariats; and
- Strengthening of the APT Cooperation Fund and establishing of new funding mechanisms.

**The East Asia Vision Group (EAVG) II Report:
Realising an East Asia Economic Community¹ by 2020**

Introduction

I. Mandate of the EAVG II

1. The East Asian Vision Group (EAVG) I, which was tasked to draw up a vision for mid-to-long term cooperation in East Asia, presented to the ASEAN Plus Three (APT) Summit in 2001 its final report titled "East Asia community of Peace, Prosperity and Progress," which laid a solid groundwork for the future direction of East Asian regional cooperation.
2. Taking into account that 2011 marks the 10th anniversary of the EAVG Final report and that 2012 marks the 15th anniversary of APT cooperation, the Republic of Korea (ROK) proposed to set up the EAVG II at the 2010 Ha Noi APT Summit to review and assess all cooperation activities implemented/being implemented within the framework of APT, and carefully reflect on the future direction of the APT process and regional cooperation in East Asia. The APT Leaders welcomed the proposal of the ROK and agreed to "task relevant officials to implement this initiative." The Terms of Reference of the EAVG II appears as ANNEX A.
3. Carrying out the above mandate, the ASEAN Member States, China, Japan and the ROK have appointed their Eminent Representatives to participate in the EAVG II (List of the Eminent Representatives appears as ANNEX B) and Supporting Experts (ANNEX C). The EAVG II held four Meetings in the ROK, Viet Nam, Japan and Indonesia, respectively under the co-chairmanship of the chair of ASEAN (Indonesia in 2011 and Cambodia in 2012) and the ROK.
4. The EAVG II took stock of all of the APT cooperation activities and evaluated how these activities have contributed to developing the APT cooperation and community-building in East Asia.
5. Based upon such stock-taking, the EAVG II studied the future direction of the APT cooperation mechanism, and also presented a new vision of regional cooperation and community building. The EAVG II is mandated to submit its Final Report to the APT

¹ It is the understanding of the EAVG II that the term "East Asia Economic Community" will be and remain an inter-governmental entity. It does not mean or imply that members of this community would be required to transfer any competence to any entity that may be created by the community. The General Principles outlined in Section IV of the Introduction remain applicable in the development of the East Asia Economic Community, in particular, the mutual respect for independence, sovereignty, equality, territorial integrity and national identity.

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Commemorative Summit in 2012 in Cambodia.

II. Assessment of the Past Decade and New Challenges

6. The EAVG I was launched against the backdrop of the 1997 Asian financial crisis. East Asian nations then felt the need to mutually cooperate in overcoming the crisis, which served as a momentum to recognise an East Asian identity. As a result, East Asian nations institutionalised cooperation in the political-security, the economic-financial, and the socio-cultural realms, and began the process of community-building in East Asia.
7. As we can see from the results of stock-taking which appears as ANNEX D, efforts towards building an East Asia community recommended by the EAVG I showed significant progress during the last decade.
 - 7.1 While the core focus of cooperation in the political and security area remains primarily on confidence-building, the APT process has helped to build the spirit of cooperation among participating countries. These countries also recognised the importance of regional cooperation to tackle non-traditional security issues. In this regard, more opportunities could be pursued by the APT countries in this area. The APT countries recognise the importance of maintaining and enhancing peace and stability in the region and are striving to strengthen cooperation to deal with emerging challenges to peace in both traditional and non-traditional security issues.
 - 7.2 Cooperation in the economic and financial fields has been the most advanced and has achieved many tangible results. Under the mid-to-long term East Asia Study Group (EASG) recommendations for the creation of a regional financing facility, a number of specific measures were discussed and implemented through the APT Finance Ministers' Meeting. As a result, the Chiang Mai Initiative has now evolved into a multilateral swap system. The APT Macroeconomic Research Office (AMRO) was established in May 2011 in Singapore to monitor, assess, and report on the macroeconomic status and financial soundness of the APT region. Furthermore, the Asian Bond Markets Initiatives (ABMI) New Roadmap+ has been adopted to facilitate the utilisation of savings for growth. The Credit Guarantee and Investment Facility (CGIF) was also established in May 2011 as a regional credit guarantee and investment trust fund in Asia to boost long-term investment in the region.
 - 7.3 Much progress has also been made in the field of socio-cultural cooperation, especially in the areas such as health, education, and environment. In health, the APT Emerging Infectious Disease Programme was developed to reduce the

impact of emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases in the region. One of its key initiatives, the APT Partnership Laboratories, was established in 2009 and aims to further strengthen the laboratory surveillance and networking on health issues within the region. The APT cooperation in education was given a recent boost with the convening of the inaugural APT Education Ministers' Meeting, to be held bi-annually, in 2012. We should continue to build on such progress.

8. The achievements highlighted above are attributable to the efforts and commitment of all countries in East Asia as well as to the central role of ASEAN in the process. The progress made in the past decade, however, has yet to establish an East Asian identity and deepen regional integration that would realise the vision of an East Asia community of peace, prosperity and progress, as presented by the EAVG I.
9. The EAVG II recognises that peace and stability were shared desire. Nevertheless, there still remain many challenges, such as territorial or border disputes, an arms race, the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and non-traditional security issues that could seriously undermine regional peace and stability.
10. The EAVG II also recognises many new economic challenges. With its high dependence on the global market, the East Asian economy is faced with shrinking demand from the industrialised world and instability of the international financial market after the 2008 global financial crisis.
11. The EAVG II is also concerned that East Asia's economic growth will gradually slow down as the aging population increases, the working age population declines, and the demand for welfare increases. At the same time, it takes a long time to narrow the development gap within and between the East Asian countries. The scarcity and depletion of natural resources for economic development also constitute a challenge. Environmental challenges that are derived from both the low level of economic development and rapid industrialisation in the region would require a decades-long task of sustainable development in the region.
12. In addition, East Asia could strengthen cooperation in disaster management, given the recent natural disasters in the region such as the earthquake and tsunami in Japan and the floods in many countries, especially in Cambodia and Thailand in 2011. Initiatives to promote sustainable development and attaining the Millennium Development Goals should also be emphasised. Social changes, such as migration and urbanisation are rapidly turning into pressing challenges to countries in East Asia, and the issues of water resource management, food security, energy security, climate change, and transnational crimes demand special attention.

III. The New Vision

13. Faced with the above challenges, the EAVG II recommends the realisation of the East Asia Economic Community by 2020 as the main pillar of our new vision. Based on the on-going efforts of ASEAN to realise the ASEAN Economic Community by 2015, the successful launching of the Chiang Mai Initiative Multilateralisation (CMIM) and the APT Macroeconomic Research Office (AMRO) and other efforts of financial stabilisation, and the prospect of trade-liberalisation with the start of the negotiations of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), East Asia is now ready to design and establish an East Asia Economic Community that manages the efforts of cooperation in trade, finance, investment, and equitable and sustainable development. The EAVG II therefore recommends that East Asian nations start the wide-ranging efforts as outlined below for the establishment of the East Asia Economic Community by 2020. East Asia needs to exert greater efforts to maintain peace and stability and ensure progress and development in the region.
14. At the same time, East Asia cooperation should build upon the central role of ASEAN which remains as the key driving force of the East Asia community building process.
15. Our new vision, however, is not limited to the creation of the East Asia Economic Community. We need to enhance efforts of cooperation in the political-security, as well as the social-cultural areas. The EAVG II also recognises the importance of cross-sectoral cooperation as outlined in the next section.
16. To promote community building in East Asia, the EAVG II proposes an approach that pertains to the following three pillars:

Political-Security Pillar

- 16.1 It is important to deepen political and security cooperation in East Asia. This region requires intensified and enhanced efforts to promote common values and norms on political and security issues building upon the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC), the United Nations Charter and relevant international law subscribed by East Asian countries. In this regard, the EAVG II proposes to prioritise cooperation to promote good governance, strengthen the rule of law, and promote and protect human rights through policy dialogue and capacity building activities.
- 16.2 The EAVG II further recognises the importance of maintaining peace and stability to ensure progress and development in the region. In this connection, the EAVG II proposes to strengthen policy dialogue and capacity building activities in the political and security. The EAVG II further proposes to enhance security cooperation such as non-traditional security issues particularly on

counter-terrorism, cybercrimes and maritime security.

Economic Pillar

- 16.3 In order to realise the long-term goal of community-building in East Asia, the EAVG II proposes to establish the East Asia Economic Community which is composed of four key elements: (i) single-market and production base; (ii) financial stability, food and energy security; (iii) equitable and sustainable development; and (iv) constructive contribution to the global economy.
- 16.4 The East Asia Economic Community seeks to create a single-market and production base through the establishment of the RCEP. The RCEP will contribute to expanding intra-regional trade in goods and services, and investment, as well as making the region an attractive investment area.
- 16.5 The CMIM, AMRO, and ABMI should continue to be strengthened to serve as a financial safety-net in time of regional and global crises. The possibility of establishing an East Asia monetary fund should be studied. There will be an expansion of local currency bond markets for the purpose of fully utilising regional savings. The local currency market should be enhanced to promote long-term investments and foster domestic consumption in East Asia.
- 16.6 For the equitable economic development of the region, joint efforts could be taken to promote private sector investments into the less developed countries in the region, through the setting up of a possible East Asia Infrastructural Investment Fund (EAIIF). In addition, East Asia will put in more efforts to enhance the industrial capacity and human resource development of less-developed countries by sharing knowledge, financial resources, and technologies.
- 16.7 The East Asia Economic Community will also contribute to the global economy by continuing to open up its markets and revitalising global multilateral trade negotiations particularly the early conclusion of the Doha Development Agenda negotiations. The East Asia Economic Community will provide more support to less-developed countries in the region.

Socio-cultural Pillar

- 16.8 This pillar should be the key area of East Asia cooperation because it is for the benefit of the people who live in the region. East Asia will respond to the newly rising socio-cultural challenges by building a caring and sharing society. Human resource development is especially important as the global economy is rapidly transforming itself into a knowledge-based digital economy.
- 16.9 Human development in East Asia aims for extended life expectancy and higher

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standard of living. East Asia's caring and sharing society will emphasise the value of sustainable development, strengthened social protection, and closer cooperation within the region in various social policies, disaster and natural resources management, and food and health issues. East Asia will respect human rights of all genders, ages, nationalities, and physical ability and expect multinational corporations to behave in socially responsible ways.

- 16.10 The cultural heritage of East Asia should be preserved and promoted, while attempts at cultural innovations should be encouraged and pursued. East Asia should strive to become a cultural and heritage centre of the world in the 21st century.

IV. Guiding Principles

17. In order to promote community building in East Asia, the following principles should be observed:
 - 17.1 Those enshrined in the United Nations Charter, Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia and the universally recognised principles of international law and other relevant regional instruments;
 - 17.2 Mutual respect for independence, sovereignty, equality, territorial integrity and national identity;
 - 17.3 Enhancement of mutual understanding, responsibility, trust and friendship;
 - 17.4 The principle of consensus and consultation in pursuing cooperation that is of mutual interest and moving at a pace comfortable to all countries;
 - 17.5 The central role of ASEAN in the existing regional mechanisms and in the evolving regional architecture;
 - 17.6 An open, transparent, inclusive and forward looking process towards East Asia integration;
 - 17.7 The mutually reinforcing and complementary roles of the APT process, the main vehicle for regional community building and such regional fora as the East Asia Summit (EAS), ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) and Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) to promote community building in East Asia; and
 - 17.8 Other guiding principles suggested by the EAVG I.

Agenda for Cooperation

I. Cross-sectoral Cooperation

1. In pursuing East Asia integration, the EAVG II recognises the cross-cutting challenges that could affect the community building. Hence, the EAVG II proposes the following:
 - 1.1 Priority should be given to further regional connectivity in East Asia in order to contribute to community-building and to support economic development in East Asia. The objectives of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC), which aims to enhance physical, institutional, and people-to-people linkages and contribute towards ASEAN's goal of the integrated Community in 2015, should be expanded to promote regional connectivity in East Asia. The Plus Three countries should contribute to the realisation of the MPAC and assist in its implementation.
 - 1.2 Cooperate more closely on disaster prevention and management. The EAVG II encouraged regional cooperation in the fields of emergency preparedness, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief with the focus on the most vulnerable people, through the implementation of the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER), including strengthening the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre), sharing experiences and lessons learned, conducting training and capacity building. Extending mechanisms and experiences of ASEAN to the Plus Three countries will enhance region-wide cooperation.
 - 1.3 Ensure that human resources are well-prepared for and benefit from East Asia integration by undertaking strategic programmes to produce a qualified, competent and well-equipped labour force;
 - 1.4 Focus on narrowing the development gap within and between countries in the region through various economic development initiatives, including growth areas, as it would in turn contribute towards poverty alleviation; and
 - 1.5 Engage various stakeholders, including governments, businesses, scholars and civil societies to reflect their views in the process of East Asia community building.

II. Political and Security Cooperation

A. Political Cooperation

2. The EAVG II emphasises the need to promote common values and norms as enshrined in the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia, the United Nations Charter, and relevant international law subscribed by East Asian countries.
3. The EAVG II supports the strengthening of the framework for building mutual

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understanding, confidence and solidarity, including the ensuring of peaceful settlement of disputes and renunciation of the threat of use of force. The East Asian countries could develop further in a transparent manner exchanges on their strategic outlooks, as well as assessments of national and regional developments.

4. The EAVG II proposes further the promotion of cooperation in the area of good governance, including strengthening the rule of law as well as enhancing administrative effectiveness, efficiency, and transparency, through policy dialogue and capacity building activities.
5. The EAVG II encourages closer cooperation on the promotion and protection of human rights.
6. The EAVG II underscores the importance to the Global Movement of Moderates (GMM) approach as more concrete actions should be taken in the future to spearhead programmes and events to further advance peace, security and harmony in order to promote moderation in both regional and international arena.
7. East Asia should strengthen engagement and collaboration with other countries in the region including through mechanisms and frameworks, such as the ARF, the ASEAN Defense Ministerial Meeting Plus (ADMM-Plus) and the EAS, which are complementary and mutually reinforcing.
8. East Asia should also strengthen its engagement at the global level by enhancing its participation through inter-regional cooperation, such as the APEC and the G-20 and others as well as by promoting interaction with other regional groupings through appropriate mechanisms such as ASEM and Forum for East Asia - Latin America Cooperation (FEALAC).

B. Security Cooperation

9. The EAVG II urges East Asia to step up its security cooperation efforts in both traditional and non-traditional security issues.
10. The region's waters serve as routes for half of the world's trade. Therefore, maintaining maritime security, stability and freedom of navigation is crucial to peace and prosperity of East Asia, and the world at large. At the same time, maritime conflict and oceanic pollution will destroy the region's rich repository of natural resources. The EAVG II thus urges East Asia to enhance cooperation by undertaking concerted efforts, including developing regional codes of conduct to ensure maritime security, promoting freedom of navigation, preventing maritime conflicts, and protecting the oceanic environment.
11. East Asia should also enhance cooperation in disarmament and the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery and related materials.

12. Non-traditional security issues such as transnational crimes including cybercrime, drug trafficking and human trafficking are becoming major threats to East Asia. In order to protect and improve both the human and national security of countries in the region, the EAVG II proposes that East Asia continues to enhance cooperation in addressing non-traditional security issues in a comprehensive manner through existing mechanisms.
13. The development gap and income disparities unleash the problems of human trafficking in East Asia. Human trafficking not only violates the individual rights of victims, encourages corruption, and increase transnational crimes, but also hinders the East Asia community building process by distorting people-to-people relationships. In this regard, the EAVG II calls for a concerted effort towards preventing human trafficking.

III. Economic Cooperation

A. Single Market and Production Base

14. The expansion of trade and investment has played a crucial role in the economic growth of the region. In the trade area, the APT now accounts for a quarter of global GDP, as well as a quarter of global trade, while one third of the entire APT trade is intra-regional. With economic stagnation in the developed world, East Asia should increase its intra-regional trade and investment further through institutional integration that eliminates tariff and non-tariff barriers.
15. In order to expand intra-regional trade and to avoid negative impacts caused by the entangled web of bilateral and sub-regional FTAs, the EAVG II recommends East Asia to proactively support the establishment of a free trade area under the RCEP, which will, among others, increase the market access for less-developed countries in the region.
16. East Asia needs to speed up its efforts to enhance trade efficiency and competitiveness through effective trade facilitation programmes. In this context, the EAVG II recommends a region-wide mechanism building on the ASEAN Single Window, once it is established, to integrate the trade-related windows of East Asian countries into a single unit in order to facilitate custom clearances and reduce transaction costs.
17. Productivity of the industries in East Asia will be further improved by the promotion of investment activities within East Asia to create a diversified and dynamic production base and through improving the business environment. The improvement of East Asia's investment climate will lead to an investment expansion.
18. For less-developed countries in the region, infrastructural development is the key in attracting investment. The EAVG II, therefore, finds it crucial to study establishing an East Asia Infrastructure Investment Fund (EAIIIF) to expand private sector investment in

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infrastructure in East Asia and utilise savings in the region with the view to enhancing regional connectivity.

19. China, Japan, and the ROK are each operating ASEAN Centres in order to encourage their domestic companies to invest in ASEAN. The EAVG II recommends that the Plus Three countries establish channels for mutual connection among the ASEAN Centres to strengthen their cooperation.
20. In order to facilitate and coordinate the above efforts of promoting trade and investment, reducing barriers, harmonising regulations, and planning and implementing development assistance, the EAVG II recommends a study to establish an appropriate mechanism.

B. Financial Stability

21. The Chiang Mai Initiative Multilateralisation (CMIM), as a regional financing facility, is one of the successful recommendations made by the EAVG I that were carried out during the last decade. In order to further strengthen the function of financial stabilisation, the EAVG II recommends a study to explore the usefulness of the establishment of an East Asia monetary fund.
22. The ABMI has contributed to the development of local currency bond markets, which enable East Asia to use its domestic savings productively for long-term investment. The EAVG II calls for the expanded issuance of government and corporate bonds denominated in local currency and the strengthened function of the Credit Guarantee and Investment Facility (CGIF), so that East Asia can achieve a more balanced growth.

C. Food Security

23. By 2030, the population in Asia will be over 3 billion. The increase in income in this region will stimulate more demand for food. Given the fluctuations in the weather around the world, East Asia should have a strong mechanism to ensure the stability of the supply of food in the region. East Asia is operating the APT Emergency Rice Reserve (APTERR) to meet the emergency requirements of the region. The EAVG II recommends that East Asia expand the coverage of the APTERR to include other staple food in times of emergency.
24. The EAVG II recommends stronger cooperation on food supply by improving the productivity of the agricultural industry. Developing high yielding varieties and technologies will stabilise the food supply. There is also a need to recognise the importance of maritime resources and to ensure the safe, stable and sustainable supply of fisheries stocks in the East Asia region.

D. Energy Security

25. Energy security has also become more challenging as the demand for energy grows

and the supply of energy becomes less certain. East Asia should strengthen the Energy Security Forum (ESF) to coordinate the optimum management of energy supply facilities, including the collection and sharing of information on the energy market, energy saving technology and alternative energy, to ensure the stability of its supply and demand in the region.

26. The rapid industrialisation and income growth of emerging economies are accompanied by the exploitation of natural resources as demand for natural resources increases. Increasing demand for natural resources will also raise the price imposing a huge economic burden on the East Asian region. The EAVG II urges East Asia to step up its cooperation efforts in the efficient supply and use of natural resources, energy saving practices, oil stockpiling, civilian use of nuclear energy, and development of green technology.

E. Equitable and Sustainable Development

27. Equitable economic development and narrowing the development gaps among and within countries in East Asia are necessary not only for the creation of the East Asia community but also for maintaining peace and stability in the region. Balanced growth not only allows the people of less-developed countries to benefit from the growth of East Asia, but also enables the people of developed countries to benefit from increasing regional demand. In order to achieve a balanced growth, East Asia needs to cooperate in improving the industrial capacity and human resources of less-developed countries by sharing knowledge on development and promoting investment in a responsible manner.
28. As East Asia brings down its trade and investment barriers, economies in the cross-border areas will have a better chance to grow. The EAVG II, therefore, urges active participation of developed countries and private sectors in the development of resources and infrastructure in cross-border areas.
29. The EAVG II recommends that East Asia strengthen its cooperation on sustainable development and create an East Asia Comprehensive Technology Research Institute (EACTRI), which will be jointly operated by East Asian countries to develop new technologies to facilitate the structural transformation and to improve absorption capacities of less-developed countries. The EACTRI may be located in a middle-income country in the region to act as a bridge between the developed and the less-developed countries.

F. Active Engagement with the World Economy

30. East Asia's economic development since the 1960s was prompted by the liberalisation of the global trading system. Since the 2008 financial crisis, however, protectionist

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tendencies and over-intensified competition have been working as hindrances to the continued growth of world trade. As a major beneficiary of the liberalised global trading system, East Asia should proactively contribute to the development of the global trading system.

31. The EAVG II calls for East Asia's proactive participation in revitalising global multilateral trade negotiations, particularly the early conclusion of the Doha Development Agenda negotiations. At the same time, East Asia is encouraged to render more efforts to open up its markets.
32. By 2020, East Asia is expected to produce around a third of the world's GDP. To play a major important role in the global stage, the EAVG II recommends that the East Asian countries closely coordinate and provide more support and assistance to the less-developed countries in the region and the world at large.
33. East Asia's proactive response to climate change signifies its willingness to fulfill global obligations and commitments and contribute to the sustainable development of the world. Therefore, the EAVG II calls for closely coordinated efforts, together with the international society, to reduce Green House Gases and joint endeavors towards developing and transferring green technologies.

IV. Socio-Cultural Cooperation

A. Human Development

34. Despite significant improvements in the field of public health, more efforts should be undertaken to reduce maternal and infant mortality. Considering the high mortality rates and the continuous spread of pandemics, HIV/AIDS and malaria in the less-developed countries, the EAVG II recognises the necessity for strengthened joint R&D activities to further improve public health services of the region.
35. The rapid economic development of East Asia has been accompanied by severe social problems, such as a rise in inequality within and between countries, an aging population, and urban congestion. Faced with these social problems, East Asian countries need to enhance and improve social welfare and protection mechanisms.
36. The EAVG II recommends that East Asian nations make great efforts in reducing polarisation pertaining to urban-rural areas, domestic-external sectors, and large-small and medium sized companies. Polarisation has harmed particularly women, youth, elderly and disabled. Thus, more effective social policies should be implemented to protect the weak and the vulnerable.
37. The aging population can deteriorate the economic dynamism of the region and increase the demand for welfare spending. A low birth rate which rapidly disintegrates

the traditional family system is another concern in East Asia. To effectively respond to these demographic problems, the EAVG II urges East Asia to strengthen its demographic policy cooperation including information sharing and joint research.

38. The EAVG II believes that East Asia should promote corporate social responsibility. Especially in Southeast Asia, multinational corporations are encouraged to be socially responsible in terms of technology transfer and contribution to the development of the local economy.
39. Freer movement of labour will play a positive role in improving economic efficiency. However, low-skilled migrant workers are often employed in declining industries and manual labor under insecure conditions. The EAVG II calls for joint efforts for the receiving states and the sending states to address issues regarding the regulation of migrant workers taking into account the fundamental rights and dignity of migrant workers without undermining the application by the receiving states of their laws, regulation and policies.

B. Education and Training

40. The EAVG II urges East Asian nations to cooperate in improving access to education to help children complete primary education and to increase secondary school enrollment rates in less-developed countries. At the same time, provision of quality education leads to human resources development, which is the foundation of equal economic opportunity and continued economic development.
41. The EAVG II recommends that East Asian governments encourage and facilitate the leading universities in the region to establish a network of East Asian universities based on the ASEAN University Network platform. This network will play a role in improving university-level curricula in less-developed countries and reduce the quality gap between educational institutions in the region. This network could include student and credit exchange programmes.
42. In the age of the knowledge economy, reducing the digital divide is of great importance, particularly for less-developed countries. Therefore, the EAVG II urges more- advanced countries in the region to offer comprehensive ICT training programmes to less-developed countries.
43. The uneven economic growth across geographical areas brings about discrepancies in the wage rate and labour migration across the region. The improvement of skills and the management of migration, both skilled and unskilled labour, will ensure the human development in the region.

C. Environment and Climate Change

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44. Environmental problems caused by natural disasters, rapid industrialisation and urbanisation call for East Asia's increased efforts to protect the ecosystem and devise environment-friendly development strategies.
45. A green growth strategy can make economic growth more energy efficient. This will enable East Asia to combat climate change and protect its environment, while promoting economic development. The EAVG II recommends that East Asian nations put more efforts to the development of green growth strategies that include green technology innovations and increased production and consumption of green products.
46. The EAVG II acknowledges that the protection of the ecosystems in the East Asia region will become a matter of growing concern caused by the rapid industrialisation of the region. The EAVG II underscores the importance of all types of forests in their contribution to socio-economic development, environmental protection and biodiversity conservation at the national, regional and global levels. To this end, East Asia should foster greater efforts in forest cooperation through sound forest policies, proven technologies, research, community projects and education in the context of sustainable forest management.
47. Instability in the global ecosystem has caused frequent floods and droughts, while industrialisation has led to an increased demand for water resources. Moreover, issues related to the use of water resources originating from international rivers are complex problems. To prevent insufficient or unstable water resources from becoming a permanent economic problem of the region, the EAVG II urges that East Asia should share information on water resources management and coordinate policies together.
48. Cross-border environmental problems have negative impacts on the quality of life and have become too complex to be handled by individual countries. The EAVG II recognises that continued and enhanced joint efforts by East Asia are necessary to solve transnational environmental problems, such as haze in Southeast Asia and yellow dust in Northeast Asia.

D. Building an East Asian Identity

49. The EAVG II underscores the importance of consolidating the East Asian identity and hence recommends for joint efforts by cultural and educational organisations to foster a stronger sense of identity and community through the exchange of experts and expansion of such networks. The EAVG II also proposes for the establishment of an Asian edition of UNESCO, to foster education and science and ensure the preservation of the historic sites and rich cultural heritage of the East Asia region.
50. The EAVG II recommends that East Asia strengthen its cultural cooperation so as to increase awareness on the region's rich cultural heritage. East Asian countries shall

further share their common identity through deeper knowledge of regional history and broader cultural exchanges.

51. The EAVG II believes that intra-regional tourism, including joint tour programmes, is an important way of increasing people-to-people connectivity. East Asian countries are, therefore, recommends the promotion of intra-regional travel through visa facilitation.
52. To contribute to people-to-people connectivity, the EAVG II recommends an East Asian volunteers' programme that could encourage people in East Asia to serve countries in the region.
53. Media connectivity in East Asia serves as a shortcut to mutual understanding. The EAVG II thus proposes to strengthen cooperation of East Asian public broadcasting stations. The exchange of programmes and co-production would facilitate communication among East Asians and contribute to the creation of common identifiers of an East Asian culture.
54. The EAVG II recommends that East Asian nations increase their support for East Asian Studies at major universities. Knowledge on the region's history, languages, politics, economy, culture, and society would deepen mutual understanding and build a stronger East Asian identity.

V. Institutional Arrangements

55. In order to pursue East Asia community building in an effective manner, the EAVG II proposes that existing mechanisms be reviewed and streamlined. In this respect, the EAVG II recommends further strengthening of the ASEAN Secretariat to better facilitate ASEAN Plus Three cooperation, and more and effective coordination between the ASEAN and the Trilateral Cooperation Secretariats.
56. Given the changing regional and global environment and the increasing pace of regional integration in East Asia, there is a need to accelerate and intensify the cooperation activities in various areas. In addition, ASEAN Plus Three countries should also consider appropriate mechanisms to accomplish this vision.
57. In line with the above, a professional study should be conducted to:
 - a. Assess the performance of the existing coordination and management arrangements in cooperation activities with regard to the four coordination functions:
 - i. Among ASEAN Plus Three countries in each area;
 - ii. Across areas at the regional level;
 - iii. Among the stakeholders; and
 - iv. With the major non-East Asian countries.

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- b. Determine the coordination and management system of these areas of cooperation, given the constraints of funding and limitations of the ASEAN Secretariat and the best practices in the international organisations and private sector.
 - c. Strengthen and expand the East Asia Forum (EAF) as a connectivity hub among various stakeholders involving business, governments, NGOs, and scholars.
58. The private sector should be given the opportunity to participate in determining the direction of future cooperation activities. They should also consider supporting the implementation of this vision through appropriate means.
59. The EAVG II recommends strengthening the APT Cooperation Fund and establishing new funding mechanisms.

Terms of Reference of the East Asia Vision Group II

I. Background

1. With a strong track record of cooperation over the past 14 years, ASEAN Plus Three has evolved into one of the most institutionalized regional mechanisms, making great contributions to East Asia in its march toward a community.
2. The East Asia Vision Group (EAVG), which was tasked to draw up a vision for mid-to-long term cooperation in East Asia, presented to the ASEAN Plus Three Summit in 2001 its final report titled "East Asia community of Peace, Prosperity and Progress". which laid a solid groundwork for the future direction of East Asia regional cooperation. Carrying the vision set forth by EAVG, the East Asia Study Group (EASG) recommended 26 projects in 2002 to be pursued for building East Asia community. Building upon the groundwork laid by EAVG and EASG, ASEAN Plus Three has undertaken a variety of projects over the past decade.
3. Taking into account that this year marks the 10th anniversary of the EAVG final report and next year marks the 15th anniversary of ASEAN Plus Three, it would be timely and relevant to review and assess all of the cooperation works implemented/ being implemented in the framework of ASEAN Plus Three - their achievements and challenges - and carefully reflect on the future direction of ASEAN Plus Three process and regional cooperation in East Asia.
4. To that end, the Republic of Korea has proposed to set up the East Asia Vision Group II at the 2010 Ha Noi ASEAN Plus Three Summit. The ASEAN Plus Three leaders welcomed Korea's proposal and agreed to "task relevant officials to implement this initiative".

II. Purpose and Role

5. The EAVG II (hereinafter referred to as "Group") will take stock of all of the ASEAN Plus Three cooperation activities, which includes the progress in the implementation of the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Work Plan(2007-2017) and projects recommended by the EAVG and EASG. The Group will evaluate how these cooperation activities have contributed to developing the ASEAN Plus Three mechanism and building a community in East Asia.
6. Based on such stock-taking, the Group will study the future direction of the ASEAN Plus Three mechanism: identify promising areas and explore new areas of ASEAN Plus Three cooperation. The group will also study a new vision of regional cooperation and

community building with consideration of mutually reinforcing and complementary roles of the ASEAN Plus Three process and such regional mechanism as EAS in promoting East Asian community building, based on the principle of ASEAN Centrality.

III. Organization and Operation

7. The Group will be composed of representatives from ASEAN Plus Three countries. Each government will appoint one eminent representative. One ASEAN Secretariat representative appointed by ASEAN Secretary General will also join the Group. Each representative may designate one expert who will support his/her activities in the Group.
8. The Group may consider holding a separate session back-to-back with its meeting, to discuss with experts or resource persons, including those from non-ASEAN Plus Three countries upon consensus of ASEAN Plus Three countries.
9. The ASEAN Member State assuming the Chairmanship of ASEAN and one of the Plus Three countries shall co-chair the meetings. The Plus Three country co-chair shall be selected by the Plus Three countries. The co-chairs shall prepare the agenda for the meeting.
10. The Group may meet four times prior to the 15th ASEAN Plus Three Summit in 2012. The first meeting is expected to be held in Seoul during the second half of the year 2011. The succeeding meetings will be held alternatively once in one of the ASEAN member countries and then in one of the Plus Three countries. The agenda and procedural rules will be determined at the first meeting.
11. The costs of international travel and accommodations for those referred to in Paragraph 7, as well as the administrative cost of the meeting will be borne by the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Fund. For the first meeting, the Republic of Korea will bear the above mentioned costs of the meeting.

IV. Time Frame

12. Each ASEAN Plus Three country will appoint its eminent representative to the Group by the end of the first half of the year 2011.
13. The Group will remain operative until the 15th ASEAN Plus Three Summit in 2012 in Cambodia. The Group will report its progress to the 14th ASEAN Plus Three Summit in 2011 in Indonesia and submit its final report to the 15th ASEAN Plus Three Summit in 2012.

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LIST OF EMINENT REPRESENTATIVES TO THE EAVG II AND THEIR BIOGRAPHIES

I. BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

H.E. Dato Paduka Erywan Pehin Yusof

Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Brunei Darussalam

Dato Paduka Erywan Pehin Yusof is Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Brunei Darussalam since 2008. He received his Combined Degree with Honours in Genetics and Biophysics from Leeds University, West Yorkshire and MSc. in Genetics and its Applications from University College Swansea, Wales, United Kingdom. He started his career in 1989 as a Veterinary Chemist in the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources. In 1991, he assumed the duties of Head of Unit for the Miscellaneous Crop Unit. Later in 1994, he undertook duties on ASEAN Agriculture Matters and became the focal point for ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (AMAF) Meetings. He was transferred to the Department of International Trade at Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade in 2005 and was involved in the Brunei-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement (BJEPA) negotiations and lead negotiator for the ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (AANZFTA) until its completion in 2007 and was then promoted to Deputy Permanent Secretary.

II. THE KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA**H.E. Meas Kim Heng**

Advisor to Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Kingdom of Cambodia

H.E. Meas Kim Heng is currently the Advisor to Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Cambodia. His last assignments were as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Cambodia to Australia and New Zealand from 2004-2008. He was Director-General of Directorate-General of ASEAN Affairs from 1999-2004 and Director of Asia and Oceania Department from 1994-1995. He also served at the Royal Embassy of Cambodia in Washington, DC from 1995-1999.

III. THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA**H.E. Jusuf Wanandi**

Co-founder and Vice Chairman, Board of Trustees of the Centre for Strategic and International Studies Foundation (CSIS) and Senior Fellow of the CSIS

Mr. Wanandi is the Co-founder and Vice Chairman, Board of Trustees of the CSIS Foundation and Senior Fellow of the Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), Jakarta. He is Chairman of the Indonesia National Committee for Pacific Economic Cooperation Council (INCPEC) and Co-Chair of CSCAP Indonesia and Board of Trustees of the CSIS Foundation and Senior Fellow of the Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), Jakarta. He is also President Director of the publishing company of the Jakarta Post as well as Chairman of the Board of the Prasetya Mulya Graduate School of Management, and Chairman of the Foundation of Panca Bhakti University in Pontianak, West Kalimantan.

IV. LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC**H.E. Mr. Soubanh Srithirath**

Chairman of the Lao National Commission for Drug Control and Supervision

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Former Ambassador of Malaysia to Sweden, Denmark, Iceland, and Norway

Dato' Kamarudin Mustafa had served in the Government as an Administrative and Diplomatic Officer from 1974-2007. He was the Undersecretary for Southeast Asia and South Asia-Pacific of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs from 1996-1998. His last assignment was as Ambassador of Malaysia to Sweden from 2007- 2010. During his tenure in Government, he had served at the Missions in Islamabad, Hong Kong, Jakarta, Bandar Seri Begawan, New York, Ghana and Russia.

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VIII. THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE**H.E. Chew Tai Soo**

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Mr Chew Tai Soo is currently Ambassador-at-Large, and concurrently, Senior Adviser, in the Singapore Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He is also Singapore's Ambassador (Non-Resident) to the Islamic Republic of Iran. Mr Chew was Singapore's Ambassador to France from 2004 to 2007. He was concurrently accredited to Spain and Portugal. Before France, Mr Chew was Ambassador to Japan from 1998 to 2004. He was the Deputy Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ambassador-at-Large from 1995 to March 1998. He was Singapore's Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York and concurrently the High Commissioner to Canada and Ambassador to Mexico from 1991 to 1995. From 1982 to 1986 he served as Singapore's Permanent Representative to the United Nations in Geneva. He joined the Singapore Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1972 after several years in the private sector. Mr Chew graduated from the University of Manchester in United Kingdom in 1964.

IX. THE KINGDOM OF THAILAND**H.E. Dr. Suthad Setboonsarng**

Former Trade Representative of
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Dr. Suthad used to serve as the Thailand Trade Representative(2009-2011), a special representative of the Prime Minister in negotiation trade and investment issues with other countries and international organizations. Dr. Suthad had been working on international trade and taxes issues in ASEAN, including trade and investment strategy and policies for both the government and leading multinational corporations, especially, the automotive and consumer product industries during his term as Partner at PricewaterhouseCoopers. Dr. Suthad was recognized for his contribution in the implementation of the ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA), the accession of Viet Nam, Lao PDR., Myanmar and Cambodia into ASEAN and his work in helping to set up the ASEAN cooperation in Finance in 1996.

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Akihiko Tanaka is the President of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). Before joining JICA in April 2012, Dr. Tanaka held multiple positions at the University of Tokyo. He served as a Professor of International Politics, Director of the Institute of Oriental Culture (from 2002-2006), Director of the International Relations Division (from 2008-2010), and Vice President (from 2009-2012). He has been a member of various Japanese government advisory groups, including the Reform Advisory Board of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Advisory Group on International Cooperation for Peace, and the Council on Security and Defense Capabilities. He was also a Japanese member of the East Asia Vision Group I. Dr. Tanaka obtained his B.A. in International Relations from the University of Tokyo in 1977 and his Ph.D. in Political Science from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1981.

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SUMMARY OF STOCK-TAKING ON THE ASEAN PLUS THREE POLITICAL- SECURITY COOPERATION

The process of East Asia community-building, which started with the convening of the first (informal) ASEAN Plus Three (APT) Summit in the aftermath of the Asian financial crisis, promised closer ties and cooperation between Southeast and Northeast Asian states. This stock-taking exercise focuses only on political security cooperation of the APT. The stock-taking analysis looks at the implementation of APT cooperation in political and security field, both in terms of progresses and challenges. The assessment is divided into two sub-sections, namely before the adoption of the APT Cooperation Work Plan (2007-2017), which covers the period of 1997-2007, and after the adoption of the APT Cooperation Work Plan (2007-2017), which covers the period of 2008-2011.

Records of APT political and security cooperation during the period 1997-2007 suggest that its activities mainly focused on two types of activities, namely official dialogues and exchanges of views as well as combating transnational crimes (TNCs). Since the first (informal) summit in 1997, the summits serve as an important venue for APT leaders to engage in dialogues and exchange of views. During those occasions, leaders consistently expressed their commitment to work together in order to face challenges confronting the region, and their desire to promote closer cooperation among the APT countries. They also used the summit to exchange views on regional and global issues confronting the region. Similar exercises were also carried out at the meetings of APT Foreign Minister (APTFMM). While the summits and APTFMM functioned primarily as forums for dialogues, its effects on the process of cooperation should not be underestimated. ASEAN's experience suggests that dialogue plays an important role in creating comfort among participants due to their effects on building confidence and trust. ASEAN's experience also suggests that confidence and trust among participants would strengthen the willingness to embrace and engage in more meaningful and concrete forms of cooperation, leading to the creation of the habit of cooperation. As such, the summit and other official meetings serve as an important confidence and trust-building exercise.

However, it is important to recognise that cooperation in political and security field has been more concrete and progressing faster in the field of combating transnational crimes (TNCs). The emphasis on TNCs in the early stage of APT cooperation clearly demonstrates the recognition by the regional states on the importance of addressing these problems. Therefore, it is not surprising to see that since the beginning, cooperation in this area has progressed rapidly and quickly become more institutionalised.

The APT Work Plan Cooperation to Combat Transnational Crime, endorsed in August 2006 by APT participating states, provides the basis for APT countries to cooperate on legal matters, information exchange/intelligence sharing, law enforcement cooperation, and training and capacity-building in order to combat TNC. It also contains a list of comprehensive and concrete measures and programs that would contribute to the strengthening of cooperation among the APT countries in seven areas: terrorism, illegal drug trafficking, trafficking in persons, money laundering, arms smuggling, sea piracy, international economic crime, and cyber crime, each with a "lead shepherd".

The issuance of the 2nd Joint Statement on East Asia Cooperation and the adoption of the APT Cooperation Work Plan (2007-2017) in November 2007 provided a new impetus and stronger foundation for the APT to take political-security cooperation into the next stage. In this regards, the willingness and readiness of APT participating countries to expand political and security cooperation are clearly outlined in five areas of priority in a comprehensive list of cooperative measures, namely deepen political and security cooperation; peace and stability cooperation in the region; counter-terrorism; maritime cooperation; and other non-traditional security issues.

Despite such a comprehensive framework and concrete measures for cooperation, the assessment on the implementation of the Work Plan suggests that progress has been slow and uneven. During the period of 2007 to 2011, for example, various political and security-related activities undertaken within the APT framework only covered two out of five areas of cooperation, namely in the areas of (1) deepen political and security cooperation and (2) transnational crime. Even in these two areas, in addition to the convening of various official meetings, activities undertaken tend to take the forms of seminar, conference, and symposium among officials in charge of respective fields.

A general explanation can be given with regards to the reasons why APT cooperation in political and security field -except in the field of transnational crimes- has been slow and uneven. While cooperation in political-security field within the APT framework has been limited and uneven, many of the measures outlined in the APT Cooperation Work Plan (2007-2017) have in fact been carried within ASEAN Plus One frameworks.

This stocktaking exercise concludes by offering three options that need to be considered by the APT in deciding how it would want to proceed in the future.

First Option: The APT can continue its efforts to undertake political-security cooperation as outlined in the Work Plan (2007-2017). This will require the APT to speed up the implementation of the Work Plan so that it could address not only the gap between political-security field and other fields of cooperation, but also within the political-security field itself.

Second Option: The APT can remove cooperation on political-security issues from its

agenda, and concentrate instead on strengthening, deepening, and expanding functional cooperation in other areas, especially economic cooperation, finance, trade, investment and social-cultural cooperation. This option would then require an agreement to "transfer" political-security cooperation into the East Asia Summit (EAS) process.

Third Option: The APT maintains its main characteristic as a process for functional cooperation as in Option Two, but it will still take up security issues that are relevant, or have direct bearing on, functional cooperation. For example, the APT can adopt an agenda of cooperation on strengthening cooperation in dealing with those problems that could hamper ASEAN connectivity plans such as port safety and terrorism. It can also cooperate on those issues that could derail economic development and growth such as infectious diseases, frauds, and natural disasters.

SUMMARY OF STOCK-TAKING REPORT ON THE ASEAN PLUS THREE ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL COOPERATION

The evolution of ASEAN Plus Three (APT) has been slow but gradual in its progress to contribute to East Asia in its march toward a community. Now in its 15th anniversary since APT began, it is timely and relevant to take stock and assess all relevant cooperation activities implemented/being implemented in the framework of APT - their achievements and challenges - and consider thoroughly on the future direction of APT process and regional cooperation in East Asia. Therefore, this study is conducted to assist the Eminent Representatives of the EAVG II with a study on APT economic and financial cooperation. The study focuses on five cooperation areas, namely, trade and investment, financial cooperation, food and agriculture, connectivity and energy.

Trade and Investment

Among the major goals of the EAVG Report in 2001 was to achieve closer economic cooperation in the areas of trade, investment, finance and development. Key recommendations that remain up to these dates include the establishment of the East Asian Free Trade Area (EAFTA) and liberalization of trade well ahead of the APEC Bogor Goal, and the expansion of the Framework Agreement on an ASEAN Investment Area to all East Asia.

Another progress in trade and investment is the launch of the "Second Joint Statement on East Asia Cooperation and the APT Cooperation Work Plan". The Cooperation Work Plan places more importance on the cooperation process of East Asia in the global context including cooperation in the WTO, trade facilitation, liberalization of trade and services.

As for the progress of EAFTA, at the 12th AEM+3 meeting, the ministers welcomed the EAFTA Phase II Study. They considered recommendations from Phase I and Phase II studies to establish working groups in rules of origin, tariff nomenclature, customs cooperation, and economic cooperation. At the 13th AEM+3 meeting, they were tasked to look at the recommendations that EAFTA and CEPEA (Comprehensive Economic Partnership of East Asia, another initiative by Japan for East Asia) should be considered in parallel.

For investment cooperation, recommendations from EASG, both short-and medium-to long-term, had functioned very little in practice. Even the Cooperation Work Plan emphasized the importance of investment cooperation; it had not been able to stir the interests among APT members in an important way.

In summary, the gradual approach in advancing trade and investment cooperation produces little results. The evidence is neither an EAFTA nor an East Asia Investment Area was created during the past 12 years. APT process should study how to make it better functions and set proper mechanisms for both short- and, medium- and long-term measures and action plans.

Financial Cooperation

The 1997/98 Asian financial crisis has alarmed East Asia for the better management of macroeconomic policy and financial systems. The Chiang Mai Initiative (CMI) was set up in 2000, building upon the ASEAN Swap Arrangement, as the bilateral swap arrangement. In 2009, it was multilateralized to be the Chiang Mai Initiative Multilateralization (CMIM). The CMIM also has drawbacks. The scale of the swap arrangement is too small as compared to the US bilateral swaps. The system is too slow to serve the rapid need of liquidity support as the participating countries need to agree to contribute on each incident when any participating members need supports. Most importantly, the participating countries retain the right to decline to contribute. The ASEAN plus three countries also launched the Asian Bond Markets Initiative (ABMI) in 2003 to promote the use of local-currency bond markets. Recently in 2008, there was the new road map for the ABMI which highlighted in four areas; promoting the issuance of local currency bonds, facilitating the demand for such bonds, improving the regulatory framework, and improving bond market infrastructure.

It is important for APT to involve other stakeholders, especially, the private sector to form a joint public-private partnership to strengthen this regional effort. The new version of CMIM must have a larger amount of funding and involves more countries. As the region that shares about 25% of global GDP, APT needs a credible regional monetary institution.

Food and Agriculture

Even though the area of food and agriculture was not mentioned in the EAVG Report I in 2001, it has become an important topic in the region and in the global context. By October 2011, the APT Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry developed the APT Cooperation Strategy (APTCS) Framework consisting of six strategic areas, i.e. strengthening food security, biomass energy development, sustainable forest management, climate change mitigation and adaptation, animal health and disease control, and cross-cutting issues.

In May 2009, the APT Leaders adopted APT Comprehensive Strategy on Food Security and Bio-energy development with the view to providing the guarantee multi-sectoral cooperation among APT countries in ensuring long-term food security and bio-energy development. The APT Emergency Rice Reserve (APTERR) was signed by the AMAF+3 in October 2011, a permanent scheme for meeting emergency requirements and achieving humanitarian purposes.

The problem of food and agriculture cooperation in APT is the protection of the farm sector which has large number of voters. However, as food security can be a threat to economic stability in the region, APT has to confront the issue now. APTERR is a good positive step forward.

Connectivity

According to the UN-ARTNeT database, there are more than 130 preferential trade agreements enforced in the Asia-Pacific region. With the implementation of several regional and preferential agreements, tariff and non-tariff barriers have the tendencies to reduce tremendously. As such, the connectivity to moving forward to become an important agenda to improve trade and investment performance as is considered to be fully integrated with transaction costs in international trade.

It is expected to develop ASEAN+3 Connectivity Partnership and finalize the framework to be endorsed in the ASEAN+3 Foreign Ministers Meeting in July 2012 and the ASEAN+3 Summit in 2012.

APT has been working with ASEAN on the Master Plan for ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC). There are also other connectivity initiatives in APT or APT-related agreements such as GMS, IMT-GT, ASEAN-China, ASEAN-Japan and ASEAN-ROK.

However, the progress of APT connectivity is very slow as there is no permanent body on connectivity. Precisely, there is still no APT transport or connectivity ministers' meeting. However, there is the initiation of an APT Transport Ministers Meeting in the 18th ASEAN summit in Jakarta and APT summit in Hanoi in 2011. In that ASEAN summit, the idea of APT Connectivity Partnership is proposed in order to extend physical, institutional and people-to-people connectivity from ASEAN connectivity to other key markets and sources including the Plus three countries.

Energy Cooperation

The APT region is one of the major primary energy consumers in the world, especially in non-renewable energy resources. However, the region has very low reserves in oil and energy with self-sufficient ratio around 72 percent, in addition to the world's major risk of energy depletion, particularly in crude oil. Another major concern about world energy is a skyrocket rise and high volatility in oil prices since 2005.

Due to the great concern regarding energy security, APT Energy Minister agreed upon the five-point initiatives for energy cooperation among ASEAN and plus three countries in September 2002, as a part of the 8th International Energy Forum. The five-point initiatives consist of the creation of emergency energy security network, the development of oil stockpiling, joint studies on the APT oil market, the improvement of natural gas development and the improvement of energy efficiency and renewable energy.

After that, a Fora of Experts for each initiatives are formed. There have been 7 ASEAN Ministers on Energy+3 (China, Japan, Korea) Meeting (AMEM+3) and nine Senior Officials Meeting on Energy+3 (China, Japan, Korea) Consultations (SOME+3 Consultations).

The progress of the five-point initiatives is still limited. Most of the initiatives are at very

preliminary stage such as APT oil market, natural gas development and the improvement of energy efficiency and renewable energy. Some other initiatives such as oil stock piling are on voluntary and non-binding, causing a big gap between developed member countries and least developed member countries.

SUMMARY OF STOCK-TAKING REPORT ON THE ASEAN PLUS THREE SOCIO-CULTURAL COOPERATION

1. The East Asia Vision Group II (EAVG II) was mandated by the Leaders at the 13th ASEAN Plus Three (APT) Summit in 2010 to stock-take, review and identify the future direction of APT cooperation. The EAVG II will first evaluate APT cooperation activities, including the progress in the implementation of the recommendations of the first EAVG (EAVG I)¹ the East Asia Study Group (EASG)² and the APT Cooperation Work Plan (2007 to 2017). Based on this stock-taking, the EAVG II will consider the future direction of regional cooperation and community building in East Asia. This stock-taking report focuses on APT socio-cultural cooperation.
2. The 2001 EAVG I report was seen as having taken a balanced approach. It had recommended that cooperation be based on common interest and shared values and principles. A key principle of cooperation was deemed to be "people-focused". The APT should affirm this principle. On the whole, many of the recommendations of the EAVG I and EASG have been carried out. This includes a wide array of cooperation areas such as health, education, and environment. In health, the APT Emerging Infectious Disease Programme was developed to reduce the impact of emergent and resurgent infectious diseases in the region. One of its key initiatives, the APT Partnership Laboratories, was established in 2009 and aims to further strengthen the laboratory surveillance and networking on health issues within the region. In environment, workshops have been organised for the sharing of expertise between ASEAN and the Plus Three Partners. APT cooperation in education was given a recent boost with the convening of the Informal APT Education Ministers' Meeting in 2011. The inaugural APT Education Ministers' Meeting, to be held bi-annually, will be convened in 2012. We should continue to build on such progress. For example, education is a great equaliser not only within a society, but also between the developing and developed countries. It would help to narrow the development gap and raise standards of living in our region. We should continue to forge greater cooperation in education to enhance the skills of our peoples and build the leaders of the future.
3. At the same time, it might be worthwhile for the APT to re-visit recommendations from the EAVG I that have not been implemented, assess the reasons why (e.g. due to lack

1 The EAVG I was formed in 1999 to "offer a common vision for East Asia that reflects the rapidly changing regional and global environment, as well as to provide future direction for cooperation among East Asian nations."It submitted its report to the ASEAN Plus Three Leaders in 2001.

2 The EASG was established in 2001 to assess the recommendations of the EAVG I. It submitted its report to the ASEAN Plus Three Leaders in 2002

of political will, resources, etc), and consider if it would be useful for future regional cooperation. Water resource management is one such example. Water is intrinsically linked to the most immediate challenges of the region, including food security, climate change and economic growth. Long-term planning, careful management of water resources, judicious investment in infrastructure and effective use of technology are necessary to ensure an adequate and sustainable supply of water. As such, the EAVG II recommends cooperation in water resource management as one of the concrete projects for future regional cooperation.

4. It is also worth considering new areas of cooperation to meet the changing needs of the region. Given the recent natural disasters in the region like the Tohoku earthquake in Japan and the floods in Cambodia and Thailand in 2011, the EAVG II recommends strengthening cooperation in disaster management. This is also provided for in the APT Work Plan (2007 to 2017). The APT could study the Plus One and larger fora to see where they can add-value to the APT. For example, the US had provided assistance to APT member countries struck by natural disasters, like the Tohoku earthquake in Japan, Cyclone Nargis in Myanmar, and the Aceh tsunami in Indonesia. At the 6th East Asia Summit (EAS) in November 2011, the US had circulated a non-paper on "EAS Humanitarian Assistance/Disaster Relief Priorities" as well as a "Rapid Disaster Response Agreement". Indonesia and Australia had also tabled a joint non-paper on "A Practical Approach to Enhance Regional Cooperation on Disaster Rapid Response".
5. Finally, it is stressed that the APT process should support and reinforce ASEAN's own integration agenda. In this regard, in considering the future direction of East Asian cooperation and community building, the EAVG II recommends that the key basis for future cooperation in the APT is to further the objectives of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC). The APT could find synergies between the implementation of the MPAC and East Asian community building. The MPAC aims to enhance physical, institutional, and people-to-people linkages and contribute towards ASEAN's goal of an integrated Community in 2015. It may also be worthwhile to recall that the EAVG I envisioned an East Asia that remains "outward-looking and open to the rest of the world". The APT should affirm this principle. The APT should also continue to find complementarities with other regional mechanisms such as the EAS in promoting East Asian cooperation and community building.