

**THE FOURTEENTH MEETING OF ASEAN PLUS THREE
(CHINA, JAPAN AND REPUBLIC OF KOREA) TOURISM MINISTERS
26 January 2015, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar**

JOINT MEDIA STATEMENT

1. The Fourteenth Meeting of the ASEAN Plus Three (China, Japan, and the Republic of Korea) Tourism Ministers was held on 26 January 2015 in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar, in conjunction with the Eighteenth Meeting of ASEAN Tourism Ministers (M-ATM) and the ASEAN Tourism Forum (ATF) 2015. The Meeting was co-chaired by H.E. U Htay Aung, Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism, Myanmar and H.E. Mrs. Du Yili, Vice Chairman of China National Tourism Administration. The Meeting was preceded by the Twenty-Sixth Meeting of ASEAN Plus Three (APT) NTOs held on 24 January 2015.
2. The Ministers were pleased with the growth in the arrival of international visitor where the APT region welcomed 241 million of visitors in 2014, an increase of 6.9% from 2013. The Ministers noted that intra-APT travel remained the main source of tourism growth in the region, accounting for 66% of the total international visitor arrivals in 2013.
3. The Ministers welcomed the successful conclusion of the 17th APT Summit and the respective ASEAN Plus One Summits held on 13 November 2014 in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar and encouraged the Plus Three Countries to continue to support the implementation of the 2012 Leaders' Statement on ASEAN Plus Three Partnership on Connectivity in order to further enhance connectivity in the region.
4. The Ministers commended the progress made in the implementation of the APT Tourism Cooperation Work Plan 2013-2017 including the APT Tourism Students Summit held on 19-26 October 2014 in both Bangkok and Pattaya, and the APT Media Familiarisation Tour Programme to promote tourism knowledge and skills development.
5. The Ministers noted the importance of development of framework to exchange ideas on tourism statistics for APT countries and new methods for tourism statistics in order to have a better understanding of the development of tourism in APT countries. In this regard, the Ministers welcomed the progress made in implementing the APT Tourism Cooperation Work Plan including the Nara Tourism Statistics Week held on 17-21 November 2014 in Nara, Japan.
6. The Ministers applauded the roles of the ASEAN-China Centre, ASEAN-Japan Centre and ASEAN-Korea Centre in promoting tourism and cultural exchanges between ASEAN and the Plus Three countries during the year 2014.
7. The ASEAN Tourism Ministers expressed their gratitude to China for the provision of complimentary booths at China International Travel Mart 2014, production of Discovery ASEAN and Taste of ASEAN which was screened on CCTV, live radio broadcast highlighting destinations in ASEAN, familiarisation tour by Chinese media to ASEAN Member States, and workshop for tour operators.
8. The ASEAN Tourism Ministers also expressed their appreciation to Japan for ASEAN-Japan Centre's Annual Work Program for FY2014 which includes exchange

program for youth, technical workshop on community-based tourism for BIMPS, tourism and exchange public relations activities, CLMV Travel Mart, theme-based tourism promotion, exchange program on capacity building and culture, and career development support for ASEAN Students in Japan.

9. The ASEAN Tourism Ministers further expressed their gratefulness to the Republic of Korea (ROK) for their support to develop ASEAN Tourism through promotional activities and capacity building, amongst others, including the establishment of an official website of ASEAN-Korean Partnership <http://www.korea-asean.com>.

10. The Ministers expressed their sincere appreciation to the Government and People of Myanmar for the warm hospitality and excellent arrangements made for the Meetings.

LIST OF MINISTERS

The Meeting was attended by:

- (i) H.E. Pehin Dato Yahya, Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Brunei Darussalam;
- (ii) H.E. Dr. Thong Khon, Minister of Tourism, Cambodia;
- (iii) H.E. Mrs. Du Yili, Vice Chairman of China National Tourism Administration;
- (iv) H.E. DR. Arief Yahya, Minister of Tourism, Indonesia;
- (v) Ms. Yumi Yamaguchi, Senior Vice Commissioner, Japan Tourism Agency, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism;
- (vi) Mr. Chulmin Kim, Director-General, Tourism Bureau, representing H.E. Mr. Kim Jongdeok, Minister of Culture, Sports and Tourism, the Republic of Korea;
- (vii) H.E. Mr. Chaleune Warintrasak, Vice Minister of Information, Culture and Tourism, Lao PDR;
- (viii) H.E. Datuk Dr. Ong Hong Peng, Secretary General, Minister of Tourism and Culture, Malaysia, representing H.E. Dato' Seri Mohamed Nazri bin Abdul Aziz, Minister of Tourism and Culture, Malaysia;
- (ix) H.E. Mr. Htay Aung, Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism, Myanmar;
- (x) H.E. Mr. Ramon R. Jimenez, Jr., Secretary of Tourism, Philippines;
- (xi) Mr. Lionel Yeo, Chief Executive, Singapore Tourism Board, representing H.E. Mr. S. Iswaran, Second Minister for Trade and Industry, Singapore;
- (xii) H.E. Ms. Kobkarn Wattanavrangkul, Minister for Tourism and Sports, Thailand;

- (xiii) H.E. Mr. Ho Anh Tuan, Vice Minister of Culture, Sports and Tourism of Viet Nam; and
- (xiv) H.E. Mr. Lim Hong Hin, Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN for ASEAN Economic Community.
