

THE SIXTEENTH MEETING OF ASEAN PLUS THREE (CHINA, JAPAN AND REPUBLIC OF KOREA) TOURISM MINISTERS

20 January 2017, Singapore

JOINT MEDIA STATEMENT

1. The Sixteenth Meeting of the ASEAN Plus Three (China, Japan, and the Republic of Korea) Tourism Ministers was held on 20 January 2017 in Singapore, in conjunction with the Twentieth Meeting of ASEAN Tourism Ministers (M-ATM) and the ASEAN Tourism Forum (ATF) 2017. The Meeting was co-chaired by H.E. S. Iswaran, Minister for Trade and Industry (Industry) of Singapore and H.E. Mr. Hisayuki Fujii, Parliamentary Vice-Minister, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism of Japan. The Meeting was preceded by the Thirtieth Meeting of ASEAN Plus Three (APT) NTOs held on 18 January 2017.
2. The Ministers noted with satisfaction the growth of the APT region's tourism industry in 2016, when the APT region welcomed 171.6 million international visitors, which is 10.5 per cent growth compared to 2015.
3. The Ministers welcomed the decisions of the 19th APT Summit and relevant ASEAN Plus One Summits held on 7 September 2016 in Vientiane, Lao PDR, and expressed their full support to the implementation of the Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC) on ASEAN Plus Three Tourism Cooperation through joint projects, programmes and activities. In implementing the APT Leaders' Statement on Promoting Sustainable Development Cooperation, the Ministers encouraged the Plus Three Countries to promote sustainable tourism cooperation in the region.
4. The Ministers appreciated the progress made in the implementation of the APT Tourism Cooperation Work Plan 2013-2017, including, among others, the organisation of APT Tourism Youth Summit on 19-25 June 2016 in Dumaguete and Siquijor, Philippines, the development of the ASEAN Plus Three Tourism Training and Education Network, the APT Media Familiarisation Tour Programme, and the convening of the ASEAN Crisis Communications Team Special Meeting on 6-9 December 2016 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The Ministers acknowledged the development of the APT Tourism Cooperation Work Plan 2018-2020 as the successor to the APT Tourism Cooperation Work Plan 2013-2017 translating MOC in concrete joint activities.
5. The ASEAN Tourism Ministers expressed their appreciation to China for the support in ASEAN-China tourism collaboration through the convening the China-ASEAN Expo Tourism Exhibition. The Ministers acknowledged the preparations for the 2017 China-ASEAN Year of Tourism Cooperation as follow up to the 1st ASEAN-China NTOs Meeting held on 21 October 2016 in Guilin, China. The Ministers noted that the Opening Ceremony for the 2017 China-ASEAN Tourism Cooperation Year would be held in March 2017 in Manila, the Philippines.
6. The ASEAN Tourism Ministers expressed their gratefulness to Japan for their support in ASEAN-Japan tourism cooperation activities, which include the convening of UNWTO International Conference on Heritage Tourism in Nara in February 2016, where NTOs from ASEAN were invited to play a vital role, the unveiling of Visit ASEAN@50 Campaign during the JATA Tourism EXPO on 21-25 September 2016, and Workshop on Sustainable Tourism, in October 2017.

7. The ASEAN Tourism Ministers expressed their gratitude to the Republic of Korea (ROK) for their support in ASEAN-ROK tourism collaboration, including the convening of the 10th Executive Training Program on Tourism Policy and Strategy, the 2016 Global Young Leaders Tourism Camp held on 18 July-2 August 2016, Korea Tourism Benchmarking Workshop, ASEAN Culinary Festival 2016: Gourmet Trips to ASEAN held on 2-5 November 2016.

8. The Ministers commended the active, vital 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 throughout the year 2016.

9. The Ministers expressed their sincere appreciation to the Government and People of Singapore for the warm hospitality accorded to all delegations attending the ATF 2017 and for the excellent arrangements made for the Meetings.

LIST OF MINISTERS

The Meeting was attended by:

- (i) H.E. Dato Ali Apong, Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism, Brunei Darussalam;
- (ii) H.E. Dr. Thong Khon, Minister of Tourism, Cambodia;
- (iii) H.E. Mr. Du Jiang, Vice Chairman of China National Tourism Administration;
- (iv) H.E. Dr. Arief Yahya, Minister of Tourism, Indonesia;
- (v) H.E. Mr. Hisayuki Fujii, Parliamentary Vice-Minister, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism of Japan;
- (vi) H.E. Mr. Hwang Myungsun, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism, the Republic of Korea;
- (vii) H.E. Mr. Ounethouang Khaophanh, Vice Minister of Information, Culture and Tourism, Lao PDR;
- (viii) H.E. Datuk Hj. Ab. Ghaffar A. Tambi, Secretary General, Ministry of Tourism and Culture, Malaysia, representing H.E. Dato' Seri Mohamed Nazri bin Abdul Aziz, Minister of Tourism and Culture, Malaysia;
- (ix) Mr. Tint Thwin, Director General, Ministry of Hotels and Tourism, Myanmar, representing H.E. U Ohn Maung, Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism, Myanmar;
- (x) H.E. Ms. Wanda Corazon T. Teo, Secretary of Tourism, Philippines;
- (xi) H.E. Mr. S. Iswaran, Minister for Trade and Industry (Industry), Singapore;
- (xii) H.E. Ms. Kobkarn Wattanavrangkul, Minister for Tourism and Sports, Thailand;
- (xiii) H.E. Mr. Le Khanh Hai, Vice Minister of Culture, Sports and Tourism of Viet Nam;
and
- (xiv) H.E. Mr. Le Luong Minh, Secretary-General of ASEAN.
