



JOINT STATEMENT

THE SEVENTH ASEAN PLUS THREE LABOUR MINISTERS MEETING (7th ALMM+3)

11 MAY 2012, PHNOM PENH, CAMBODIA

Introduction

1. The ASEAN Labour Ministers and their counterparts from People's Republic of China, Japan, and the Republic of Korea (the Plus Three Countries) gathered in Phnom Penh, Cambodia on 11 May 2012 to review the progress of the cooperation under frameworks of ASEAN Plus Three cooperation and exchange views on issues relating to efforts improving social protection and skill development.

2. The Seventh ASEAN Plus Three Ministers Meeting (7th ALMM+3) was attended by the Ministers responsible for labour from Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Viet Nam, People's Republic of China, Japan, and Republic of Korea, and their respective delegations. The Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN for the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) and staff representatives of the ASEAN Secretariat were also in attendance. The list of the ASEAN Plus Three Labour Ministers is enclosed.

Exchange of Views on Improving Social Protection and Skills Development In the Region

3. The Ministers shared information and exchanged views on the achievements, experiences, and constraints in implementing social protection and developing skilled labour in their respective countries. The Ministers agreed that closer cooperation among ASEAN Plus Three Countries should be promoted towards coherent and inclusive social protection, skills development, and improved labour market information systems.

4. The Ministers noted that Myanmar is in the process of drafting of a new law for a comprehensive and inclusive social security system, including for retired and unemployed citizens, and an Employment and Skills Development Law. The Ministers congratulated Myanmar for its recently concluded by-elections held in April 2012, and encouraged Myanmar to continue with its labour reforms towards stability and development in the country.

Status of ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation in Labour

5. The Ministers were pleased to note the outcomes of the China-ASEAN High Level Seminar on Social Insurance which was successfully convened on 14-16

September 2011 in Chengdu City, China. The Ministers expressed appreciation to China for its commitment to continue such kind of activities of information sharing among ASEAN Member States and China, including the plan to convene the High Level Conference on Social Insurance Administration tentatively in October 2012 in China.

6. The Ministers expressed appreciation to Japan for its continued support to the on-going projects of ASEAN-ILO/Japan Programme on Industrial Relations, ASEAN-ILO/Japan Programme on Unemployment Insurance and Employment Services, ASEAN-Japan Collaboration on Occupational Safety and Health, ASEAN-Japan Fund for Building Social Safety Net, and ASEAN-Japan Collaboration Programme of Human Resources Development. The Ministers supported the plan to convene the 10th ASEAN and Japan High Level Officials Meeting on Caring Societies in October 2012 in Tokyo, Japan.

7. The Ministers noted with satisfaction the progress of the ASEAN-Japan HRD Collaboration Programme for CLMV, including the Training Course on Measures for Skill Promotion on 25 July - 3 August 2011 both in Japan and the Philippines, which was followed by a series of national seminars in CLMV Countries in December 2011. The Ministers requested Japan to continue the implementation of the ASEAN-Japan HRD Collaboration Programme for CLMV.

8. The Ministers noted with appreciation the completion of numerous joint programmes supported by the Republic of Korea, including the 12th Human Resources Development Programme for Officials of ASEAN Countries in March 2011 in Seoul, the Republic of Korea, under the theme "International Migration Policies and Socio-Economic Development". The Ministers expressed their support to the plan of the Republic of Korea to share its skills development policies and experiences with ASEAN Member States in conjunction with the opening of the Global Skills Promotion Centre in the end of 2012.

Eighth ASEAN Plus Three Labour Ministers Meeting

9. The Ministers looked forward to further exchange of views on joint labour initiatives at the Eighth ASEAN Plus Three Labour Ministers Meeting in Myanmar in 2014.

Concluding Remarks

10. The Ministers expressed their sincere appreciation to the Royal Government of Cambodia, particularly the Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training, for the warm hospitality extended to the ASEAN delegates and excellent arrangement of the Meeting.

List of Ministers/Representatives attending the Seventh ASEAN Plus Three Labour Ministers Meeting, 11 May 2012, Phnom Penh, Cambodia

- 1. H.E. Vong Sauth**
Minister of Labour and Vocational Training
Cambodia
- 2. H.E. H. A. Muhaimin Iskandar**
Minister of Manpower and Transmigration
Indonesia
- 3. H.E. Bounkhong Lasoukanh**
Vice Minister of Labour and Social Welfare
Lao PDR
- 4. H.E. Datuk Seri Dr. S. Subramaniam**
Minister of Human Resources
Malaysia
- 5. H.E. Aung Kyi**
Minister of Labour
Myanmar
- 6. H.E. Rosalinda Dimapilis-Baldoz**
Secretary of the Department of Labor and Employment
The Philippines
- 7. H.E. Tan Chuan-Jin**
Minister of State for Manpower
Singapore
- 8. H.E. Phadermchai Sasomsub**
Minister of Labour
Thailand
- 9. H.E. Pham Thi Hai Chuyen**
Minister of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs
Viet Nam
- 10. H.E. Hu Xiaoyi**
Vice Minister of Human Resources and Social Security
China
- 11. H.E. Toshiaki Ota**
Vice-Minister for Policy Coordination of Health, Labour and Welfare
Japan
- 12. H.E. Lee Chae Pil**
Minister of employment and labor
Republic of Korea

13. H.E. Dato' Misran Karmain

Deputy Secretary General of ASEAN for the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community
The ASEAN Secretariat