



**JOINT MINISTERIAL STATEMENT OF THE  
SEVENTH ASEAN PLUS THREE MINISTERIAL MEETING ON YOUTH  
(7<sup>th</sup> AMMY+3)**

*19 July 2019, Vientiane, Lao PDR*

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**WE**, the ASEAN Youth Ministers and Heads of Delegation of Brunei Darussalam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the People's Republic of China, the Republic of Indonesia, Japan, the Republic of Korea, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, gathered together on 19 July 2019 in Vientiane, Lao PDR for the Seventh ASEAN Plus Three Ministerial Meeting on Youth.

1. We **extend** our full support to Lao PDR and Japan in "*Enhancing the Role of Youth in ASEAN for Sustainable Development and Regional Integration*" as its 2019-2020 Co-Chairpersonship theme and **welcome** its flagship initiative on ASEAN Eco-Tourism and Agro-Tourism to create more jobs and promote greater awareness on eco-tourism among the youth of ASEAN by advancing leadership skills towards eco-friendly tourism.
2. In promoting peace, stability and prosperity in our region and beyond, we **encourage** stronger partnership between ASEAN, the Plus Three Countries and other relevant partners and **note with satisfaction** the contribution of activities implemented through the ASEAN Plus Three platforms and those involving each respective Plus Three Countries to the progress made in the implementation of ASEAN Work Plan on Youth 2016-2020, namely:
  - a. The empowerment of ASEAN youths through meaningful activities such as the Young ASEAN+3 Social Entrepreneurs in Action Programme, the ASEAN+3 Youth Social Business Summit 2018, the 2<sup>nd</sup> ASEAN Plus Three Young Entrepreneurs Forum, as well as the AUN and ASEAN+3 Educational Forum and Young Speakers Contest; and
  - b. People-to-people exchange programmes through the Ship for Southeast Asian and Japanese Youth Program (SSEAYP), the International Youth Development Exchange Program (INDEX), the Japan-East Asia Network of Exchange for Students and Youths (JENESYS), the Japan-Asia Youth Exchange Program in Science (SSP), the Asia Kakehashi Project, the 19<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-Korea Future Oriented Youth Exchange Program, the 8<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-ROK Frontier Forum (AKFF), the Bridge of the Future: ASEAN-China Young Leaders Training Campus, the ASEAN-China Youth Camp, and the ASEAN-China Young Entrepreneurs Exchange which have reached out to thousands of youth in the ASEAN region.

3. We **support** the recommendations of the Mid-Term Review of the ASEAN Work Plan on Youth 2016-2020 on the need to reorient ASEAN's Post-2020 youth development strategies towards: (i) fostering future-ready ASEAN youth through digital skills development and (ii) the institutionalisation of youth engagement mechanisms, including in the region's policy discourse.
4. We **acknowledge** the need to foster digital and soft skills development in preparing future-ready ASEAN youths through training, volunteering and internship programmes, and **reaffirm** our commitment to further strengthen ASEAN Plus Three collaborations on youth development to address the challenges of Industry 4.0, digitalisation and the evolving demand of the labour market.
5. We **acknowledge** the role of youth in addressing global and regional issues through participation in policy discourse, thus **support** the creation of inclusive platforms where the voice and aspirations of youths from ASEAN Plus Three Countries, as primary stakeholders of youth development policies and programmes, could be channelled and subsequently transmitted to the relevant decision makers.
6. We **look forward** to the development of the Post-2020 ASEAN Work Plan on Youth that would be based on the five (5) domains of the ASEAN Youth Development Index, namely: (i) Education; (ii) Health and Well-Being; (iii) Participation and Engagement, (iv) Employment and Opportunity; and (v) ASEAN Awareness, Values and Identity, and **reaffirm** our support to foster collaborations and identify complementarities with the ASEAN Plus Three (APT) Cooperation Work Plan 2018-2022 in the said priority areas.
7. We **encourage** the development of the Plan of Action for ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation on Youth, including the utilisation of the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Fund (APTCF) to support ASEAN Plus Three initiatives on youth development, and **agree** to continue *Enhancing Cooperation in Youth Exchanges and Sports* as indicated in the ASEAN Plus Three (APT) Cooperation Work Plan 2018-2022.
8. We **conveyed** our appreciation to Lao PDR and Japan for the effective Co-Chairpersonship and excellent arrangements for the Seventh ASEAN Plus Three Ministerial Meeting on Youth and **welcome** Malaysia and the Republic of Korea as the forthcoming Co-Chairs of the ministerial meeting in the year 2022 in Malaysia.

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