

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

**18 January 2019, Ha Long City, Viet Nam**

## **JOINT MEDIA STATEMENT**

1. The Eighteenth Meeting of the ASEAN Plus Three (ASEAN, China, Japan, and the Republic of Korea) Tourism Ministers was held on 18 January 2019 in Ha Long City, Viet Nam, in conjunction with the Twenty-Second Meeting of ASEAN Tourism Ministers (M-ATM) and the ASEAN Tourism Forum (ATF) 2019. The Meeting was co-chaired by H.E. Mr. Nguyen Ngoc Thien, Minister of Culture, Sports and Tourism of Viet Nam and Mr. Yu Byungchae, Director General for Tourism Industry Policy, representing H.E. Mr. Do Jonghwan, Minister of Culture, Sports and Tourism, the Republic of Korea. The Meeting was preceded by the Thirty-Fourth Meeting of ASEAN Plus Three (APT) National Tourism Organisations (NTOs) held on 16 January 2019.
2. The Ministers were pleased to acknowledge that in 2018, the APT region received 191.5 million international visitor arrivals.
3. The Ministers welcomed the decisions of the 21<sup>st</sup> APT Summit and relevant ASEAN Plus One Summits held on 15 November 2018 in Singapore. The Ministers applauded all ASEAN Plus Three Countries for the complete submissions of notification on readiness to implement the Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC) on ASEAN Plus Three Tourism Cooperation, and looked forward to the successful implementation of the MOC.
4. The Ministers commended the progress made in the implementation of the APT Tourism Cooperation Work Plan 2018-2020 where lead countries for implementation of all key activities under the Work Plan have been identified. The Ministers appreciated the active role of the lead countries in leading the implementation of the Work Plan activities throughout 2018, including among others, the convening of the APT Conference on Interpreting Natural and Cultural Heritage Towards Quality Guiding and Satisfied Tourists on 6-8 March 2018 in Siem Reap, the organisation of the ASEAN-Korea Tourism Investment Seminar on 8 June 2018 in Seoul, and the convening of the ASEAN Plus Three Tourism Youth Summit 2018 on 18-24 November 2018 in Clark, the Philippines.
5. The ASEAN Tourism Ministers expressed their gratitude to China for their support in ASEAN-China tourism cooperation activities, including the 15<sup>th</sup> China-ASEAN Expo 2018 on 12-15 September 2018 in Nanning, and the provision of complimentary booths at China International Travel Mart (CITM) 2018.
6. The ASEAN Tourism Ministers expressed their gratitude to Japan for their support in ASEAN-Japan tourism cooperation activities, which include the organisation of the Seminar on Accessible Tourism on 1 March 2018 in the Philippines, ASEAN-Japan Workshop on Accessible Tourism – Driving Awareness Towards Accessible Destinations for the 10 New Bali on 7-8 December 2018, in Belitung, Indonesia, 6<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-Japan Cruise Promotion Strategy Experts Group Meeting on 23 March 2018 in Tokyo, Mekong Tourism Award 2018, Visit Japan ASEAN + India Travel Mart 2018 on 27-28 November 2018 in Kobe, and the convening of UNWTO International Conference on Tourism and Snow Cultures on 1-4 February 2018 in Yamagata, Japan.

7. The ASEAN Tourism Ministers expressed their gratitude to the Republic of Korea (ROK) for their support in ASEAN-ROK tourism cooperation activities, including the Korea Culture and Tourism Festival in October 2018 in Thailand, promotional events and FAM tours for 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> tier cities in Viet Nam, Korea Premium Travel Consultant in local travel agencies, fostering Muslim-friendly environment with establishment of prayer rooms as well as Halal Restaurant Week, online and offline marketing by KTO overseas branches, and ASEAN Community Based Tourism Program on 2-8 January 2018 in Nglanggeran, Yogyakarta, Indonesia.

8. The Ministers applauded the important roles played by the ASEAN-China Centre, ASEAN-Japan Centre and ASEAN-Korea Centre in promoting tourism, people-to-people and cultural exchanges between ASEAN and the Plus Three countries throughout the year 2018.

9. The Ministers looked forward to the implementation of the APT Tourism Cooperation Work Plan 2018-2020 activities to be convened in 2019, including among others, the ASEAN Plus Three Workshop on Environmental Management Standard for Sustainable Tourism Development, the ASEAN-Japan Tourism Investment Seminar 2019, and the 1<sup>st</sup> ASEAN Plus Three Regional Conference on Facilitation and Simplification of Travel and Visa. The Ministers also took into consideration Viet Nam's invitation to participate in annual international travel marts organised in Viet Nam such as Ho Chi Minh City's International Travel Expo (ITE) and Vietnam International Travel Mart (VITM).

10. The Ministers expressed their sincere appreciation to the Government and People of Viet Nam for the warm hospitality accorded to all delegations attending the ATF 2019 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. Xiong Bo, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of China to the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, China;
- (iv) H.E. Dr. Arief Yahya, Minister of Tourism, Indonesia;
- (v) H.E. Mr. Hideyuki Tanaka, Parliamentary Vice-Minister, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism of Japan;
- (vi) Mr. Yu Byungchae, Director General for Tourism Industry Policy, representing H.E. Mr. Do Jonghwan, Minister of Culture, Sports and Tourism, the Republic of Korea;
- (vii) H.E. Prof. Dr. Bosengkham Vongdara, Minister of Information, Culture and Tourism, Lao PDR;
- (viii) H.E. Datuk Mohamaddin Ketapi, Minister of Tourism, Arts and Culture, Malaysia;
- (ix) H.E. U Ohn Maung, Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism, Myanmar;
- (x) H.E. Ms. Bernadette Romulo-Puyat, Secretary of Tourism, Philippines;

- (xi) Mr. Keith Tan, Chief Executive, Singapore Tourism Board, representing H.E. Chan Chun Sing, Minister for Trade and Industry, Singapore;
- (xii) H.E. Mr. Weerasak Kowsurat, Minister for Tourism and Sports, Thailand;
- (xiii) H.E. Mr. Nguyen Ngoc Thien, Minister of Culture, Sports and Tourism of Viet Nam;  
and
- (xiv) H.E. Dr. Aladdin D. Rillo, Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN for ASEAN Economic Community.

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