

**THE EIGHTEENTH MEETING OF THE ASEAN MINISTERS ON AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY AND THE MINISTERS OF AGRICULTURE OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA, JAPAN AND THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA
(18th AMAF PLUS THREE)**

12 October 2018, Ha Noi, Viet Nam

JOINT PRESS STATEMENT

1. We, the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry and the Ministers of Agriculture and Rural Affairs of the People's Republic of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea held our Eighteenth Meeting on 12 October 2018 in Ha Noi, Viet Nam under the Chairmanship of H.E. Nguyen Xuan Cuong, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Viet Nam.
2. We are pleased with the progress of implementation of the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Strategy (APTCS) 2016-2025 that exposed the spirit of APT cooperation and significant number of activities on strengthening food security; sustainable forest management; climate change mitigation and adaptation; animal and plant health and disease control; enhancement of capacity-building and human resource development; strengthening of information system and knowledge networking and exchange; enhancement of productivity, quality and marketability of agricultural products; and research and development.
3. We appreciated the progress in the implementation of the ASEAN Plus Three Emergency Rice Reserve (APTERR) Agreement and reaffirmed our commitment to continue supporting the implementation of APTERR Agreement through signing the Protocol to amend the Agreement which is agreed and signed at 18th AMAF Plus Three. We noted the implementation of the Tier 3 programme in particular for pre-positioned programme contributed by Japan and ROK in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Philippines. We also welcomed the conclusion of the arrangement for the Tier 1 implementation between the Japan and Philippines as the first trial for APTERR. We encouraged APTERR Parties to continue participating in Tier 3 programmes.
4. We noted the progress of the ASEAN Plus Three Food Security Information System (AFSIS) particularly in food security information development in the region and in improving statistical data on food processing and distribution of agricultural crops in ASEAN.
5. The ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry extended our appreciation to the People's Republic of China, Japan, and Republic of Korea for their continuous support and commitment to enhancing the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation in Food, Agriculture and Forestry.
6. We will meet again at the 19th Meeting of AMAF Plus Three in Brunei Darussalam in 2019.
7. We expressed our sincere appreciation to the Government and the people of Viet Nam for their warm hospitality and excellent arrangements made for the 18th AMAF Plus Three Meeting.

The Meeting was attended by:

- i. H.E. Dato Ali Apong, Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism, Brunei Darussalam
- ii. H.E. Veng Sakhon, Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Cambodia
- iii. H.E. Dr. A. Amran Sulaiman, Minister of Agriculture, Indonesia
- iv. H.E. Dr. Liane Thykeo, Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, Lao PDR
- v. H.E. Dato' Salahuddin bin Ayub, Minister of Agriculture and Agro-Based Industry, Malaysia
- vi. H.E. Dr. Aung Thu, Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, Myanmar
- vii. H.E. Ariel T. Cayanan, Undersecretary for Operations and Agriculture Mechanisation, Department of Agriculture, Philippines
- viii. H.E. Sun Xueling, Senior Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry for Home Affairs and Ministry for National Development, Singapore
- ix. H.E. Luck Wajananawat, Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Thailand
- x. H.E. Dr. Nguyen Xuan Cuong, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development of Viet Nam
- xi. H.E. Ma Aiguo, Chief Agronomist of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, People's Republic of China
- xii. H.E. Yasuhiro Ozato, State Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Japan
- xiii. H.E. Lee Jae-Ouk, Deputy Minister for Food Industry Policy, Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, ROK
- xiv. H.E. Dr. Aladdin D. Rillo, Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN for ASEAN Economic Community.