

**JOINT MEDIA STATEMENT OF THE 9th MEETING OF THE ASEAN MINISTERS
RESPONSIBLE FOR CULTURE AND ARTS**

“Impact of COVID-19 & Way Forward for the Culture and Arts Sector”

22 October 2020, Video Conference

1. The Ninth ASEAN Ministers Responsible for Culture and Arts (AMCA) Meeting and the AMCA Meetings with Dialogue Partners, including the ASEAN Plus Three, China, Japan and the Republic of Korea, were held online via Video Conference, on 22 October 2020.
2. The theme of the 9th AMCA was “Impact of COVID-19 & Way Forward for the Culture and Arts Sector.”
3. The Meeting was preceded by the 16th Meeting of the ASEAN Senior Officials Responsible for Culture and Arts (SOMCA) as well as its meeting with China, Japan, ROK and the Plus Three Countries on 20 October 2020.

Opening Ceremony

4. The Opening Ceremony commenced with Welcome Remarks by H.E. Dr. PHOEURNG Sackona, Minister of Culture and Fine Arts of the Kingdom of Cambodia, who expressed it was an honor for Cambodia to host the 9th AMCA and Related Meetings.
5. The ASEAN Anthem “The ASEAN Way” was played during the Opening Ceremony.
6. The chairmanship of AMCA was handed over from Indonesia to Cambodia. In the Outgoing Remarks of the 8th AMCA Chair, H.E. Mr. Nadiem Makarim, Minister of Education and Culture of Indonesia expressed his gratitude for the support given to Indonesia during its Chairmanship. He noted that Indonesia served as AMCA Chair during a period of tremendous regional and global change and this became an impetus to initiate strategies to maintain ASEAN’s unity. He mentioned that important milestones in the culture and the arts sector have been achieved predominantly through the Yogyakarta Declaration on Embracing the Culture of Prevention to Enrich ASEAN Identity which was adopted during the 8th AMCA on 24 October 2018 in Yogyakarta, Indonesia. He also noted the major developments in the implementation of the ASEAN Strategic Plan on Culture and Arts 2016-2025. He looked forward to Cambodia’s Chairmanship and called on the culture and arts sector to extend their strong support.
7. The Meeting was Chaired by H.E. Dr. PHOEURNG Sackona, Minister of Culture and Fine Arts of the Kingdom of Cambodia with H.E Prof. Dr. Kikeo KHAYKHAMPHITHOUNE, Minister of Information, Culture and Tourism of the Lao PDR

who served as Vice Chair. The list of Ministers and Representatives from all ASEAN Member States, China, Japan and the Republic of Korea appears as **ANNEX 1**.

8. H.E. Dr. PHOEURNG Sackona, Minister of Culture and Fine Arts of the Kingdom of Cambodia, as the 9th Chair of the AMCA, reiterated her commitment to collaborate with the ASEAN Ministers responsible for Culture and Arts to find a way forward in the activities of the sector during and after the outbreak of COVID-19, and continue to promote the implementation of the milestones set out in the ASCC Blueprint 2025, ASEAN Strategic Plan for Culture and Arts 2016-2025, and other AMCA statements to further enhance cooperation and strengthen partnerships with ASEAN Dialogue Partners, including with the ASEAN Plus Three, China, Japan, and the Republic of Korea. The AMCA Chair's remarks appear as **ANNEX 2**.

Response of the ASEAN Culture and Arts Sector to the Impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic

9. The Ministers conveyed their oneness with the ASEAN Community in responding to the adverse impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic. They noted that in the ASEAN Culture and Arts sector, the closure of recreation and entertainment centres including museums, cinemas, parks, libraries, exhibition halls and theatres, have impacted the livelihoods of creative workers and entrepreneurs.

10. The Ministers shared concrete ways to address the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic at the national level and exchanged views on best practices that could be adapted at the regional level to further enhance cooperation. The Ministers recognised the importance of digital technologies in bridging ASEAN with its citizens amid social restrictions and community quarantine measures, and encouraged the ASEAN Culture and Arts sector to explore ways forward to foster ASEAN Identity and awareness by further leveraging digital technologies.

ASEAN City of Culture – Siem Reap

11. The title of ASEAN City of Culture is handed over from Yogyakarta City, Republic of Indonesia, to the Siem Reap City of the Kingdom of Cambodia for the period of 2020-2022. Siem Reap City is the Sixth City in ASEAN selected as an ASEAN City of Culture. The Ministers reiterated support for the ASEAN City of Culture to embody the ASEAN Culture of Prevention, particularly in promoting a culture of peace and intercultural understanding. To mark the launch of the ASEAN City of Culture, Cambodia as Chair of the 9th AMCA and 16th SOMCA and Related Meetings with Dialogue Partners, proposed to hold cultural events and ceremonies in solidarity with the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2021, Cambodia will hold two important events: “A Memorial Night” in Siem

Reap to commemorate the inclusion of Cambodia's cultural heritage in the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity list and "Mozart at Angkor: Cambodia Magic Flute". At the same time, Cambodia sought the cooperation of all ASEAN Member States and the Plus Three Countries to fully participate in these events as much as possible. The events would not only strengthen closer cultural cooperation in the ASEAN community but also promote ASEAN cultural diversity to the world.

12. For other special incoming events to support AMCA Chair 2021 and ASEAN Chairmanship 2022, Cambodia will inform the ASEAN Member States and other Dialogue Partners of the relevant dates in due course.

Narrative of ASEAN Identity

13. The Ministers expressed their support and reaffirmed their commitment to promote and mainstream the Narrative of ASEAN Identity that was adopted by the AMCA on 22 October 2020.

14. The Ministers thanked Indonesia for initiating the development of the Narrative of ASEAN Identity following the adoption of the Yogyakarta Declaration on Embracing Culture of Prevention to Enrich ASEAN Identity by the AMCA in October 2018.

15. The Ministers noted that two rounds of ad-referendum consultation with Sectoral Bodies of the three ASEAN Community Pillars were conducted from May to August 2020. To further broaden the discussion on strengthening ASEAN Identity, a virtual consultative meeting with civil society organisations was convened on 25 August 2020. Following this, a virtual cross-sectoral cross-pillar consultation with Sectoral Bodies of the three Pillars was held on 31 August 2020 to further develop the Narrative.

16. The Ministers looked forward to the adoption of the Narrative of ASEAN Identity at the 37th ASEAN Summit by the ASEAN Leaders and reiterated that ASEAN identity is strengthened by drawing on our mutual inherited and constructed values. As such, the work on strengthening ASEAN identity should be a cross-sectoral and cross-pillar endeavour to be continuously reinforced, as well as advocating ASEAN Identity to be streamlined into the workplans of all sectoral bodies of the three pillars of ASEAN,

ASEAN Cultural Heritage List

17. The Ministers welcomed the progress made on the ongoing discussion to develop the ASEAN Cultural Heritage List which was proposed during the 15th ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting for Culture and Arts (SOMCA) on 10 September 2019 in Yogyakarta.

18. The Ministers noted that the proposed initiative on the development of the ASEAN Cultural Heritage List was in line with the ASEAN Declaration on Cultural Heritage (2000) and the Vientiane Declaration on Reinforcing Cultural Heritage Cooperation in ASEAN (2016). The Ministers noted that the concept paper for the ASEAN Cultural Heritage List has been consulted with SOMCA and representatives from civil society organisations, and encouraged the ASEAN Culture and Arts sector to continue to pursue this initiative by developing the Terms of Reference (TOR) to convene an expert panel to study the feasibility of setting up the ASEAN Cultural Heritage List.

ASEAN Strategic Plan for Culture and Arts (2016-2025)

19. The Ministers welcomed the progress of the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Culture and Arts (2016-2025). The Ministers noted that the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for the Culture and Arts sector have been developed and looked forward to the operationalisation of the KPIs. The Ministers also noted that the development of the KPIs is timely as the Strategic Plan is approaching its mid-term implementation and encouraged a mid-term evaluation of the Strategic Plan to assess the relevance of the strategies and map the progress of its implementation.

20. The Ministers supported Indonesia's proposal to lead efforts in addressing Key Strategy 4 of the ASEAN Strategic Plan for Culture and Arts (2016-2025) related to the promotion of creative industries. The Ministers also supported the idea to enhance cooperation on creative industries with other relevant sectoral bodies, both in the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) Pillar as well as the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) Pillar. The Ministers also looked forward to the ASEAN Regional Workshop on Creative Economy (ARWCE) which will be held in Yogyakarta in 2021, in which one of the expected outputs is the establishment of ASEAN Working Group on Creative Economy.

Cooperation with Dialogue Partners

21. The Ministers exchanged views on the progress of ASEAN cooperation with China, Japan and Republic of Korea in the field of culture and arts. The Ministers noted the progress of the implementation of the ASEAN Plus Three Work Plan on Cooperation in Culture and Arts 2019-2021 especially in the areas of (a) cultural exchange, (b) cultural heritage management, and (c) human resource development. The Ministers were of the view that the establishment of the APT Culture Cities Network laid solid foundation for the long-term partnership between ASEAN and the Plus Three countries for advancing and expanding city-level cultural exchange and wished to further deepen cooperation of friendship under the ASEAN City of Culture and the East Asian Cultural Cities for the prosperity of culture in Asia.

22. The ASEAN Ministers expressed their appreciation of China's efforts in cooperation with AMS in the implementation of the Plan of Action on ASEAN-China Cooperation in Culture (2019 – 2021), and expressed their support to the consultation and preparation for the renewal of the Plan of Action on ASEAN-China Cooperation in Culture. The ASEAN Ministers welcomed the 15th China-ASEAN Cultural Forum to be held in China, and expressed their willingness to further discuss the direction of the cooperation in the cultural field between China and ASEAN countries during the Forum.

23. The ASEAN Ministers welcomed Japan's initiatives in supporting efforts to promote ASEAN awareness, in particular through the ASEAN Cultural Heritage Digital Archive project which was officially launched in February 2020. The Ministers valued the financial support from Japan including the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF 2.0) to implement various initiatives promoting cultural cooperation.

24. The ASEAN Ministers appreciated the efforts towards implementation of the 2019 Special Meeting of the ASEAN-ROK Ministers Responsible for Culture and Arts (2019 Special AMCA Plus ROK) and the Special Meeting of the ASEAN-ROK Senior Officials for Culture and Arts (2019 Special SOMCA Plus ROK) in 23-24 October 2019 in Gwangju, Republic of Korea, as well as the subsequent cooperative projects. The ASEAN Ministers agreed to further discuss the proposals from ROK on establishing an ASEAN-ROK Visual Arts Organisation and an ASEAN-Korea Cultural Heritage Cooperation Organisation, as well as the proposal from ROK for 10 AMS and ROK to jointly plan and cooperate on developing the ASEAN-ROK Culture Innovation Summit through close cooperation with the ASEAN Secretariat and considered the request for cooperation on expanding opportunities in the region to learn the Korean language. The Ministers recognized Korea's support through the ASEAN-Korea Cooperation Fund (AKCF).

25. The ASEAN Ministers appreciated the financial support from the Plus Three countries through ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Fund (APTCF) to implement the cooperation projects in the ASEAN Plus Three Work Plan on Cooperation in Culture and the Arts 2019-2021.

Closing and Acknowledgement

26. The Ministers agreed to convene the 10th AMCA and its Related Meetings with Dialogue Partners in Vientiane, Lao PDR in 2022.

27. The Ministers expressed their sincere appreciation to the Government of Cambodia for the excellent arrangements made for the virtual convening of the 9th AMCA, 16th SOMCA and Related Meetings despite the challenges posed by the ongoing pandemic. The Meetings were held in the traditional spirit of ASEAN solidarity and cordiality.