

2013-2017 ASEAN PLUS THREE COOPERATION WORK PLAN

Adopted in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei on 10 October 2014

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This ASEAN Plus Three (APT) Cooperation Work Plan 2013-2017 is a revision of the APT Cooperation Work Plan 2007-2017 based on the assessment and recommendations of the Mid-Term Review of the APT Cooperation Work Plan 2007-2017 adopted by the 14th APT Foreign Ministers' Meeting on 30 June 2013. This Work Plan will serve as the master plan to enhance APT relations and cooperation in a comprehensive and mutually beneficial manner for the period of 2013 – 2017 with the APT process as a main vehicle while continuing to support the central role of ASEAN in the evolving regional architecture. This Work Plan also contributes towards the establishment of the ASEAN Community by 2015.

In order to continue strengthening and deepening cooperation, the APT countries will pursue the following joint actions and measures as well as capacity building activities, through closer consultation and coordination with sectoral bodies, in accordance with their respective laws and regulations:

I. POLITICAL AND SECURITY COOPERATION

1.1 Deepening Political And Security Cooperation

- 1.1.1 Utilise the APT process as the framework for building mutual understanding, confidence and solidarity. The APT countries are encouraged to constructively conduct, with increasing candour and transparency, exchanges on their strategic outlooks, assessments of national and regional developments and briefings on their respective strategies and plans on vital issues;
- 1.1.2 Continue to hold the APT Summit annually in conjunction with the ASEAN Summit;
- 1.1.3 Continue high-level consultations and increase exchanges between officials of the APT countries in the political and security areas;
- 1.1.4 Cooperate to strengthen the multilateral system as well as expand and deepen interaction and coordination, within multilateral frameworks, including the United Nations;
- 1.1.5 Cooperate to promote good governance, including strengthening the rule of law, promoting human rights, enhancing administrative effectiveness, efficiency, and transparency through policy dialogue, and to promote capacity building activities, and participation by relevant segments of society in policy-making process;
- 1.1.6 In the framework of applicable national and international law, intensify cooperation to combat corruption, including denying a safe haven to those guilty of public corruption;

- 1.1.7 Make efforts to progressively increase exchanges and cooperation between defence officials and exchange visits between military training institutions to promote trust and mutual understanding;
 - 1.1.8 Strengthen cooperation through exchanges of experts, joint research projects and joint seminars in order to strengthen the linkages between APT government-affiliated policy and strategic research institutes; and
 - 1.1.9 Enhance technical assistance and capacity building in support of efforts to address traditional and non-traditional security issues.
- 1.2 Strengthening Peace And Stability Cooperation In The Region
- 1.2.1 Strengthen cooperation and increase consultations through the relevant ASEAN-led mechanisms including the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus), and East Asia Summit (EAS) with the view to ensuring peace, security and stability in the region;
 - 1.2.2 Promote peace building through, inter alia, sharing of experiences on peace building operations and exchanges of experts and academics on peace studies;
 - 1.2.3 Enhance multilateral and regional cooperation in disarmament and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery and related materials; and
 - 1.2.4 Cooperate closely on action-oriented measures including participation of civil society and industrial sectors in opposing the proliferation of WMD by adopting and enforcing effective export controls, and on disarmament issues with the objective of total elimination of all WMD including nuclear weapons, in accordance with their national legislation and consistent with international law.
- 1.3 Combating Transnational Crimes And Addressing Other Non-Traditional Security Issues
- 1.3.1 Strengthen cooperation in the field of border management to jointly address matters of common concern, including forgeries of identification and travel documents, by enhancing the use of relevant technologies to effectively stem the flow of terrorists and criminals, to monitor and curb their means of operations as well as enhancing cooperation to prevent the organisation, instigation and support for groups that carry out acts detrimental to the security and stability of APT countries;
 - 1.3.2 Enhance cooperation in information sharing on terrorists and transnational criminal organisations, including their leaders and members, operational methods and supporting infrastructures, linkages, as well as criminal activities;
 - 1.3.3 Implement measures to combat money laundering and terrorist financing, in accordance with the recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF);
 - 1.3.4 Work towards the elimination of smuggling of small arms and light weapons, as a major contribution to the national and international efforts of counter terrorism;
 - 1.3.5 Support the implementation of the ASEAN Convention on Counter Terrorism;

- 1.3.6 Support the implementation of and the accession to relevant international conventions and protocols on counter terrorism and the finalisation of a UN comprehensive convention on international terrorism;
 - 1.3.7 Ensure that any measures taken to combat terrorism are implemented in accordance with international laws, in particular, regarding human rights, displaced persons and humanitarian concerns;
 - 1.3.8 Cooperate to support development initiatives aimed at enhancing quality of life, rule of law, good governance and community awareness in order to reduce the conditions that terrorists seek to exploit;
 - 1.3.9 Support ASEAN in attaining the Drug Free ASEAN 2015 goals;
 - 1.3.10 Strengthen cooperation among law enforcement agencies in relation to extradition and mutual legal assistance, in accordance with the domestic laws of APT countries and other relevant treaties;
 - 1.3.11 Strengthen cooperation in combating trafficking in persons and actively support the comprehensive implementation of the ASEAN Declaration against Trafficking in Persons, Particularly Women and Children including cooperation among law enforcement agencies; and
 - 1.3.12 Strengthen cooperation and render mutual assistance in combating and suppressing cybercrimes including cooperation among law enforcement agencies, taking into account the need of each country to develop laws to address cybercrimes.
- 1.4 Enhancing Maritime Cooperation
- 1.4.1 Enhance maritime cooperation including in the area of maritime security through cooperative activities, such as safety of navigation, and in accordance with relevant international and regional treaties and agreements including the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and through, inter alia, the promotion of information sharing, and technology cooperation projects such as through exchanges of visits of authorities concerned, training of personnel in search and rescue and other areas, where applicable; and
 - 1.4.2 Forge closer cooperation in fighting against sea piracy, armed robbery against ships, hijacking and smuggling, in accordance with relevant international laws including through cooperation with relevant regional cooperative frameworks, without impinging on the sovereignty and territorial integrity of APT countries.

II. ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL COOPERATION

2.1 Promoting Trade And Investment

- 2.1.1. Ensure that the ASEAN+1 FTAs with China and the Republic of Korea as well as the ASEAN-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership remain commercially meaningful to business in the region and promote the utilisation of these FTAs in order to enhance overall economic growth and development conducive to businesses;

- 2.1.2. Support the on-going process towards establishing the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), to facilitate economic activities among ASEAN and its Free Trade Agreement partners including the Plus Three countries;
- 2.1.3. Phase out tariffs and non-tariff barriers to ensure free flow of goods in APT countries, in accordance with the results of WTO negotiations and relevant FTA/EPA negotiations and continue to accord Generalised System of Preference (GSP) status and preferential treatment for Developing and Least Developed Countries;
- 2.1.4. Encourage discussion on mobility of labour and its influence on economies and other related issues, taking into account the respective circumstances of each country;
- 2.1.5. Strengthen cooperation in the multilateral trading system, especially in the World Trade Organisation (WTO), including jointly pursuing the successful conclusion of the negotiations of the Doha Development Agenda (DDA) and endeavour to ensure that the development dimension of the DDA is embodied in a comprehensive package that would deliver tangible, fair and effective development benefits to all developing and the least developed member countries;
- 2.1.6. Strengthen efforts to facilitate trade through improving customs procedures such as promotion of pre-arrival customs processing/clearance of goods, audit-based practices of customs control, standardisation of practices to assess customs value and origin determination;
- 2.1.7. Work towards expediting customs clearance and release, using ASEAN Single Window as a basis;
- 2.1.8. Promote the application of information and communication technology (ICT) in the field of customs for better management and service;
- 2.1.9. Promote the transparency of policies to facilitate trade and investment expansion, including those enhancing conducive business environment, business mobility and trade financing;
- 2.1.10. Encourage free flow of services and progressively liberalise trade in services in accordance with the results of the WTO negotiations and relevant FTA/EPA negotiations consistent with the WTO rules and principles;
- 2.1.11. Strengthen the role of the East Asia Business Council (EABC) in pushing forward economic cooperation in East Asia and to encourage appropriate activities aimed at promoting business interaction in the region;
- 2.1.12. Provide regional support to foster an attractive investment climate through sharing best practices, giving mutual encouragement, responding to the requirements of investors, extending technical assistance and exchanging statistical information;
- 2.1.13. Consider conducting comprehensive studies on the possible establishment of an East Asia Investment Area by expanding the ASEAN Investment Area.

- 2.1.14. Promote cooperation between investment promotion agencies and facilitate mutual investment promotion missions by respective business communities;
- 2.1.15. Promote understanding of each other's policies, regulations and legislations pertaining or related to trade, competition policy, services, investment and industry as well as the sharing of experiences and best practices among APT countries; and
- 2.1.16. Facilitate cooperation in regulatory framework to support trade, investment and business activities in ICT sector, harmonisation of frequency, standards and interoperability of products/services, and consumer protection.

2.2 Strengthening Financial Cooperation

- 2.2.1. Operationalise the strengthened Chiang Mai Initiative Multilateralisation (CMIM) as part of the regional financial safety net;
- 2.2.2. Transform the ASEAN+3 Macroeconomic Research Office (AMRO) to an international organisation to enhance further its role as an independent regional surveillance unit in contributing to effective monitoring and analysis of regional economies, early detection of risks, swift implementation and remedial actions, and effective decision-making of the CMIM;
- 2.2.3. Enhance the soundness and resilience of financial systems, and facilitate the cooperation and development of financial markets in the region;
- 2.2.4. Implement the Asian Bond Markets Initiative (ABMI) New Roadmap+, focusing on its nine priorities, which include among others, the implementation of guarantee programme of the Credit Guarantee and Investment Facility (CGIF) and the enhancement of ASEAN+3 Bond Market Forum (ABMF) activities; and
- 2.2.5. Explore the possibility of other mutually beneficial areas of financial cooperation, such as areas under infrastructure financing and disaster risk insurance.

2.3 Promoting Standards And Conformance

- 2.3.1. Cooperate to support ASEAN's efforts to adopt and use international standards as the basis for technical regulations, conformity assessment procedures and Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS) standards, as appropriate and consistent with WTO principles;
- 2.3.2. Promote information exchange with ASEAN regarding development of standards, technical regulations and conformity assessment procedures, including the domestic implementation of WTO TBT agreements; and
- 2.3.3. Implement appropriate measures to ensure greater participation and contribution of ASEAN Member States in the international and regional bodies related to standards and conformance.

2.4 Enhancing Cooperation In Intellectual Property Rights

- 2.4.1. Promote the exchange of views, experiences and information in the creation, utilisation, protection, commercialisation of intellectual property (IP) and

enforcement of intellectual property rights (IPR) and related issues of mutual concern;

- 2.4.2. Implement appropriate measures to strengthen IP systems and promote greater public awareness of IP and IPR issues in the fields of education and industries, the commercialisation of IP, the utilisation of IP information, and technology transfer, in accordance with the relevant provisions in the WTO TRIPS Agreement;
- 2.4.3. Promote the harmonisation of IP laws and systems, where possible, to enhance trade and investment in the region and facilitate intellectual property rights registration;
- 2.4.4. Promote cooperative activities to increase the level of knowledge among a broader section of government officials and IP professionals so that they may contribute to business growth and development; and
- 2.4.5. Endeavour to encourage technology-transfer policies on the part of multinational corporations operating in the region.

2.5 Promoting Quality Tourism

- 2.5.1. Promote the development of quality tourism through, where appropriate, the promotion of ASEAN's environmental management standards and certification programmes for sustainable tourism, and forge concrete collaboration in cultural and eco-tourism, medical tourism and health services, cruise tourism, youth exchange, human resources development, joint tourism marketing and promotion, and quality assurance, as well as safety measures for tourists; and
- 2.5.2. Promote linkages and strengthen cooperation among national tourism organisations and training institutions, covering areas such as tourism information exchange, human resource development and crisis communications, and encourage the involvement of the private sector in such cooperation.

2.6 Enhancing Cooperation In Food, Agriculture, Fisheries And Forestry

- 2.6.1. Forge closer cooperation in agriculture in key areas of mutual interests, including research and development, technology transfer, crops, horticultural plants cultivation, biotechnology application, fertiliser, agricultural investment and infrastructure, post-harvest technology, food handling, food safety, livestock, fisheries, organic farming, and agricultural cooperatives;
- 2.6.2. Promote networking in areas of key mutual interest between government authorities concerned, as well as between agricultural and food-related research institutions of APT countries;
- 2.6.3. Cooperate in strengthening agricultural markets and promoting linkages and cooperation between relevant agriculture authorities to enhance accessibility of ASEAN agricultural products into global markets;
- 2.6.4. Promote cooperation in rural financial institutions, such as agricultural banks and micro-financing arrangements;

- 2.6.5. Provide opportunities for ASEAN farmers, including young farmers, and those engaged in agribusiness to learn and develop more efficient farming practices and management skills through training and information sharing with the Plus Three countries farmers;
 - 2.6.6. Enhance capacity-building and human resources development in areas of agriculture where there is key mutual interest through training courses, seminars, workshops, job attachment and scholarship schemes;
 - 2.6.7. Enhance further cooperation to ensure sustainable food security in the region by strengthening the implementation of the APT Emergency Rice Reserve (APTERR) agreement;
 - 2.6.8. Enhance cooperation and exchange of information on major food commodities through strengthening the APT Food Security Information System (AFSIS);
 - 2.6.9. Deepen cooperation so as to help address the challenges of sustainable forest management in the region through collaborative efforts, such as supporting global and regional initiatives, as appropriate, to reduce emissions from forest degradation and deforestation; strengthening cooperation on law enforcement to combat illegal logging and its associated trade; preventing forest fires; promoting reforestation of degraded lands; and encouraging a phased approach to forest certification;
 - 2.6.10. Cooperate on fisheries and forest products development and promotion schemes; and
 - 2.6.11. Promote regionalisation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries.
- 2.7 Enhancing Energy Cooperation
- 2.7.1. Pursue energy security, sustainable development and economic growth in an integrated approach taking into account specific and diverse national circumstances;
 - 2.7.2. Promote energy diversification through information exchanges and research on alternative, new and renewable energy development such as solar, hydro, geothermal, clean coal technology, biofuels, biomass, natural gas including shale gas, and others, taking into consideration each country's specific national circumstances; and for those Member countries which choose to do so, the use of civilian nuclear energy, while giving careful and due regards to the security, environmental, health and internationally- recognised safety standards of the energy source;
 - 2.7.3. Endeavour to create a more favourable market environment with a view to creating efficient energy market, facilitating regional energy production and trade, and promoting investment in energy infrastructure and facilities;
 - 2.7.4. Promote energy efficiency improvement and energy conservation in sectors, such as the industrial, transport, residential / commercial and power sectors, where possible, through the setting of individual goals and formulating action plans;

- 2.7.5. Enhance cooperation on emergency preparedness by making full use of the APT Energy Security Communication System;
 - 2.7.6. Promote greater cooperation and market transparency, including through the Joint Organisations Data Initiative (JODI), and intensify the exchange of energy data, where possible, and the sharing of national energy policies on a voluntary basis;
 - 2.7.7. Explore means of supporting the national rural electrification programmes of concerned ASEAN Member States;
 - 2.7.8. Support the work of the ASEAN Centre for Energy;
 - 2.7.9. Consider specific projects and proposals on energy issues raised within various regional processes such as the EAS and APEC;
 - 2.7.10. Promote dialogue with Middle East oil and gas producing countries to enhance mutual understanding and cooperation between producing and consuming countries;
 - 2.7.11. Promote cooperation for diversification of energy transportation routes to enhance energy security; and
 - 2.7.12. Conduct collaborative activities to exchange experience and build capacity on the use of clean and environmentally-friendly technologies.
- 2.8 Enhancing Cooperation In Minerals
- 2.8.1. Facilitate trade and investment in the mineral sector for mutual benefits, as well as forge closer cooperation in capacity building in the mineral sector;
 - 2.8.2. Enhance collaboration in research and development activities for the sustainable development of the mineral sector;
 - 2.8.3. Encourage private sector participation and public-private sector collaboration in the development and/or implementation of joint cooperation in programmes and activities related to the sustainable development of mineral resources in the region; and
 - 2.8.4. Promote technical information exchange, share experiences and best practices on, among others, the development of the ASEAN Mineral Database, scientific and technological research and development of geosciences, the sustainable development of mineral resources.
- 2.9 Promoting Small And Medium Enterprises (SMES)
- 2.9.1. Foster a conducive business environment through encouraging information linkages to share and exchange knowledge and experience in both public and private sectors on policies and support programmes relating to SMEs, general management, finance, marketing, business development services and production technology, including but not limited to research and best practices;
 - 2.9.2. Promote cooperation among SMEs in the region through mutually accepted technology transfer, mentoring, market research, management skill training,

meetings and exchanges between potential SMEs, and training programmes among APT countries;

- 2.9.3. Explore e-commerce cooperation to enhance the collaboration, partnership, and internationalisation of SMEs within APT countries;
- 2.9.4. Jointly identify and overcome barriers in SME business partnerships, including in market development and access to common markets; and
- 2.9.5. Promote SME investments in ASEAN Member States, as well as alert SMEs to market opportunities in those countries; and
- 2.9.6. Make full use of the regular Joint Consultations between the ASEAN SME Agencies and SME Agencies of the Plus Three countries to strengthen the exchange of information and best practices among the relevant authorities and institutions of SMEs, encourage market expansion, discuss investment opportunities, and identify new areas of cooperation.

2.10 Development Cooperation

- 2.10.1. Support the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) and other sub-regional endeavours such as the Cambodia-Lao PDR-Myanmar-Viet Nam (CLMV) cooperation, Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy (ACMECS), the ASEAN-Mekong Basin Development Cooperation (AMBDC), the Brunei Darussalam-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East ASEAN Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA), the Cambodia-Lao PDR-Viet Nam (CLV) Development Triangle, the Greater Mekong Sub Region (GMS), the Indonesia-Malaysia-Thailand Growth Triangle (IMT-GT) and the East-West Economic Corridor (EWEC) to narrow the development gaps in ASEAN in order to expedite regional integration;
- 2.10.2. Continue to develop resources and infrastructure jointly for growth areas and to continue mobilising and exploring the expansion of financial resources for development with active participation of the private sector and with further support from multilateral development banks; and
- 2.10.3. Promote development cooperation in accordance with international norms, rules and disciplines; and
- 2.10.4. Strengthen the support for human resource development in ICT sector to develop and upgrade ICT skills.

III. ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

3.1 Strengthening Cooperation In Environment And Sustainable Development

- 3.1.1. Forge closer cooperation in protecting and conserving the environment and promoting sustainable use of natural resources;
- 3.1.2. Forge closer cooperation in the following areas:

- (a) transboundary environmental pollution reduction, particularly transboundary haze pollution and transboundary movement of hazardous wastes;
- (b) biological diversity and natural heritage conservation and sustainable management;
- (c) application of advanced and environment-friendly technologies and best practices,
- (d) sustainable water resource management, including groundwater,
- (e) sustainable management of coastal and marine environment,
- (f) urban environmental management and governance, especially the ASEAN Initiative on Environmentally Sustainable Cities,
- (g) public awareness and education for sustainable development including environmental education,
- (h) multilateral environmental agreements, in particular climate change and chemical and chemical waste related conventions and partnerships, and
- (i) air quality management;

3.1.3. Enhance cooperation and coordination in capacity building in the area of environment through the following:

- (a) exchanges of information and experiences between and among government authorities, institutions and experts,
- (b) provision of training courses and scholarships and dissemination of information through seminars, workshops and conferences,
- (c) conducting joint research and development and networking among research / academic institutions, and
- (d) technology transfer;

3.1.4. Promote 3R (Reduce, Reuse and Recycle) and environmental sound management of waste; and

3.1.5. Promote sustainable development as a means to reduce negative aspects of development on the environment.

3.2 Strengthening Cooperation In Addressing The Impact Of Climate Change

3.2.1. Forge closer cooperation among APT countries to mitigate and adapt to climate change;

3.2.2. Strengthen cooperation, among others, in the development, transfer and diffusion of technologies to raise the capacity of APT countries to respond to climate change; and

- 3.2.3. Promote sharing of experiences in addressing socio-economic impacts of climate change, particularly on vulnerable groups.

IV. SOCIO-CULTURAL AND DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

- 4.1. Develop cooperative activities towards realising the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and consider supporting international efforts to develop a post-2015 development agenda; and
- 4.2. Strengthen the APT Cultural Cooperation Network (APTCNN), the East Asia Forum (EAF), the Network of East Asian Think Tanks (NEAT) and the Network of East Asian Studies (NEAS), and consider their recommendations as supplementary source of inputs for policy formulation that is based on research and inter-sectoral consultations.
- 4.3. Forging Closer Cooperation In Poverty Alleviation
 - 4.3.1. Open APT countries' markets to the products of their poorer citizens, including assistance in marketing their products, in accordance with multilateral or bilateral agreements and arrangements, and provide assistance to education, skills training, knowledge-sharing, public health, microcredits, the protection of their work environment and the building of effective national and community institutions;
 - 4.3.2. Establish benchmarks and monitoring mechanisms to measure progress toward the MDGs, extending assistance to enhance the capacity to enable such progress to be made, such as networks among "poverty alleviation facilitators", and poverty-related data collection and monitoring systems, and performance evaluation system for poverty alleviation programmes. Strengthen the dialogue on the Post-MDGs international development agenda;
 - 4.3.3. Forge closer cooperation between ASEAN and the Plus Three countries in capacity building in the area of rural development and poverty eradication for government officials, experts, practitioners through information and experience sharing activities, people-to-people exchange programme, and training courses;
 - 4.3.4. Strengthen the APT SOM on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication;
 - 4.3.5. Monitor the effects of trade liberalisation and economic integration and urbanisation on rural development and poverty alleviation programme, including social protection systems and ICT as a tool for rural development and poverty alleviation;
 - 4.3.6. Support efforts to develop rural community resilience and productivity amidst emerging risks of climate change, natural disasters and food security through capacity building of rural communities and small-scale producers, and promotion of sustainable rural livelihoods and sustainable crop production intensification; and
 - 4.3.7. Support efforts to promote the roles and participation of stakeholders through, among others, capacity building, people-to-people exchange programmes and training courses in poverty alleviation and community empowerment for village leaders, local communities, and non-governmental organisations.

4.4. Promoting Development Of Vulnerable Groups

- 4.4.1. Support efforts to provide care to and promote social welfare and development of vulnerable groups, such as children, women living under poverty, the elderly and persons with disabilities;
- 4.4.2. Support efforts to ensure access of persons with disabilities to opportunities and protection against all forms of discrimination, including the promotion of their human rights;
- 4.4.3. Support efforts to promote equality between men and women through equitable participation of women in all spheres of life and equitable distribution of benefits for women in the development process by eliminating all forms of discrimination against them;
- 4.4.4. Strengthen cooperation in addressing challenges related to issues faced by the vulnerable groups, including unemployment, the increasing cost of living, street and domestic violence, and violence against women and children;
- 4.4.5. Support efforts to ensure child survival and full development, safeguard their rights, and encourage meaningful participation of children in society;
- 4.4.6. Support efforts to ensure adequate care for the elderly by promoting community-based approaches, and encourage elderly persons to contribute to the community;
- 4.4.7. Strengthen cooperation in developing human and economic potential of vulnerable groups through capacity and capability development to enable them to face socio-economic uncertainties; and
- 4.4.8. Share experiences and best practices on social security for vulnerable groups; and
- 4.4.9. Promote the use of ICTs for women, children, the elderly and people with disabilities to enhance building social and economic community.

4.5. Building Capacity Of Civil Service

- 4.5.1. Exchange experiences on key areas within public administration and reform, in particular, enhancement of human resource capabilities, promotion of effective and efficient civil service, public accountability, and good governance;
- 4.5.2. Share expertise and know-how in civil service matters and capacity development among APT countries;
- 4.5.3. Strengthen capacity development and knowledge in the respective civil services in the areas covered in the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Blueprint;
- 4.5.4. Support effective implementation of the ASEAN Conference on Civil Service Matters (ACCSM) with the Plus Three Countries Work Plan (2012-2015); and
- 4.5.5. Assist in reducing the gap in terms of capacity among ASEAN Member States.

4.6. Labour And Migrant Workers

- 4.6.1. Support the efforts to protect and promote labour rights, including the rights of migrant workers, and conditions of work, as well as to promote progressive labour practices in ASEAN Member States which take into account the ILO labour standards and international benchmarks, where appropriate;
- 4.6.2. Establish closer cooperation in capacity building for government officials in the priority areas of labour inspections, occupational safety and health, labour dispute settlement system, social protection system, employment services as well as public health and HIV / AIDS in the workplace through sharing of information and experiences, promoting regional best practices, and policy dialogue;
- 4.6.3. Promote effective and sound industrial relations in the region through regional and national social dialogues and sharing of good practices and experiences; and
- 4.6.4. Promote the development of labour markets, greater labour mobility, employment opportunities, and decent work for all, through activities to improve labour market information systems and analysis, social insurance, skills and vocational training.

4.7. Promoting Culture And People-To-People Contact

- 4.7.1. Cooperate in the promotion of people-to-people contacts involving, inter alia, parliamentarians, government officials, academia, youth, media, cultural experts, sports persons and representatives of business, industries, and think tank institutions;
- 4.7.2. Identify and address common concerns in the areas of cultural heritage management, human resources development in the cultural context, and small and medium-sized cultural enterprises development;
- 4.7.3. Support efforts to engage civil society in developing a people-centered ASEAN Community;
- 4.7.4. Promote cultural understanding and greater awareness of each other's culture, through regularly held cultural festivals, film festivals, art exhibitions, workshops and other events, such as the East Asia Week;
- 4.7.5. Promote interaction, networking, and exchange of visits between government authorities involved in cultural affairs, as well as between cultural institutions, museums, archives and libraries, as well as artists, experts, practitioners in theatre, music, acrobatics, dance, folk art, and cinematography;
- 4.7.6. Render mutual assistance and cooperation for the protection, preservation, and restoration of cultural and historical heritage, both tangible and intangible, according to the laws and regulations of each country, enhance cooperation to combat pillage, illicit trafficking and smuggling of moveable cultural property;
- 4.7.7. Promote closer cooperation and collaboration between cultural, creative and design industries including joint venture and co-production;

- 4.7.8. Promote research and policy dialogue on the impact of globalisation, modernisation and ICT revolution on youth with a view to exchanging lessons learned and best practices; and
 - 4.7.9. Intensify youth exchanges, for deeper mutual understanding and forging a sense of commonality, as well as continue to hold the APT Young Leaders Forum.
- 4.8. Enhancing Cooperation In Information And Media
- 4.8.1. Promote exchanges and cooperation in the area of journalism, including press, radio, and television;
 - 4.8.2. Promote cooperation and understanding among ASEAN and the Plus Three countries through news exchange and information / media persons exchange programmes;
 - 4.8.3. Hold consultations and dialogues on broadcasting issues and media policies;
 - 4.8.4. Conduct personnel training for the technicians and professionals in the TV and broadcasting sectors; and
 - 4.8.5. Promote cooperation in content generation, including digital content, through co-production.
- 4.9. Strengthening Cooperation In Education
- 4.9.1. Encourage investments in education and training to accelerate learning opportunities for out-of-school children and youth and to upgrade the quality of educational institutions, including human resources development for teachers, lecturers and administrative personnel;
 - 4.9.2. Promote collaboration, networking, and research and development among institutions and authorities involved in education;
 - 4.9.3. Promote higher education cooperation, increase linkages between universities through the ASEAN University Network (AUN) and encourage credit transfers between universities in APT countries by establishing a working group on mobility and quality assurance in higher education under the existing APT mechanism on education;
 - 4.9.4. Support research activities and exchanges of APT scholars and professionals interested in the APT relationship;
 - 4.9.5. Continue to make efforts to expedite visa application procedures for students and intellectuals of ASEAN Member States who travel to the Plus Three countries for academic purposes, in accordance with existing national regulations;
 - 4.9.6. Cultivate an East Asian identity through promotion of ASEAN Studies and East Asian Studies in the region; and
 - 4.9.7. Promote education for sustainable development through various ways such as exchange of teachers and sharing of good practices.

4.10. Strengthening Cooperation In Science, Technology, And Innovation

- 4.10.1. Broaden cooperation between and among the scientific and technological communities, including on human resource development and networking on science, technology, and innovation, and promoting public-private partnership in APT countries;
- 4.10.2. Promote and engage in joint capacity building activities, exchange of information, and sharing of best practices in areas such as science, technology and innovation policies, technology transfer, commercialisation, products and scientific standards, investment and IPR management;
- 4.10.3. Promote research and technology development in areas of having potential for commercial applications such as biotechnology, food technology, new materials, microelectronics and information technology, marine resources, new and renewable energy, life science, medical devices and technology, and space technology;
- 4.10.4. Strengthen cooperation in meteorology addressing climate information and prediction services, weather observations and climate change; and
- 4.10.5. Raise the visibility of APT cooperation in science, technology and innovation through sustained efforts in promoting and participating in various initiatives of the APT Centre for the Gifted in Science (ACGS), the ASEAN Food Conference, ASEAN Science and Technology Week, and other relevant events such as science, technology, and innovation youth camp.

4.11. Strengthening Cooperation In Public Health

- 4.11.1. Strengthen cooperation, including capacity building and technical assistance, among APT countries as agreed by the APT Health Ministers' Meeting;
- 4.11.2. Strengthen cooperation in capacity building in public health emergency disaster management including the response through whole-of-society approach;
- 4.11.3. Promote networking among stakeholders in APT countries in the areas as agreed on the APT Health Ministers' Meeting;
- 4.11.4. Promote research and development and human resources development in the areas related to public health, including joint research and development, seminars, workshops, training courses and study tours as well as exchange of visits and scholarships for officials, health professionals and experts;
- 4.11.5. Enhance cooperation at the global and regional levels to prevent, control and reduce the impact of communicable and pandemic diseases;
- 4.11.6. Promote collaboration, exchanging and sharing experiences on Universal Health Coverage through, but not limited to, the activities of the APT Network on Universal Health Coverage;
- 4.11.7. Continue to improve ASEAN's emergency preparedness against the outbreak of pandemic influenza;

- 4.11.8. Increase collaboration on prioritised activities to improve accessibility to safe, quality, affordable and effective medicines and to promote the rational use of medicines including containing anti-microbial drug resistance; and
 - 4.11.9. Intensify joint efforts in advocating, facilitating, and implementing relevant social and economic interventions in addressing non-communicable diseases and its risk factors including tobacco use, harmful use of alcohol and unhealthy diet, as well as sedentary life style.
- 4.12. Disaster Management And Emergency Response
- 4.12.1. Strengthen cooperation in the addressing issues related to floods, landslides, earthquakes and other disasters such as through assistance to support national and regional network of early warning systems for tsunamis and other disasters, including through real-time information sharing and public awareness campaigns;
 - 4.12.2. Promote education and raise public awareness on disaster management;
 - 4.12.3. Render assistance, including collaborating on crisis management, to implement the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response; and
 - 4.12.4. Enhance civil-military cooperation, coordination, and capacity building in disaster relief.
- 4.13. Promoting Moderation
- 4.13.1. Promote moderation as a common value, and the empowerment of moderates in various religions as well as promote inter-faith and inter-cultural dialogue to enhance mutual understanding among different cultures and religions, as well as promote universal ideals of religious moderation and tolerance.

V. CONNECTIVITY COOPERATION

- 5.1. Support the implementation of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC);
- 5.2. Develop APT partnership to enhance connectivity through the timely implementation of the projects related to connectivity, in particular the 15 Priority Projects identified under the three-pronged strategies of the MPAC, namely physical, institutional, and people-to-people connectivity;
- 5.3. Explore the possibility of additional financing mechanisms / modalities under APT framework to support the implementation of ASEAN connectivity projects;
- 5.4. Study measures to promote infrastructure financing including private sector involvement and public-private partnership as well as multilateral development banks in connectivity projects;
- 5.5. Task our relevant Ministers to consider establishing study groups, through various mechanisms, to recommend ways and means to push forward APT partnership on Connectivity cooperation in relevant areas, covering the three-pronged strategies of the MPAC; and

- 5.6. Encourage the ASEAN Connectivity Coordinating Committee (ACCC) to work with the Plus Three countries to coordinate the efforts in connectivity under APT frameworks.

VI. INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT AND FOLLOW-UP MECHANISM

- 6.1. Continue strengthening the APT Cooperation Fund (APTCF);
- 6.2. Develop and conduct joint projects including the use of ICT to advance the objectives of this Plan, and, where appropriate, sub-regional activities and cooperative efforts that further the goals and objectives set forth in this Work Plan will be encouraged;
- 6.3. The ASEAN Secretariat to develop a schedule and time frame for implementation of this Work Plan as means to inform and monitor activities implemented to address measures under this Work Plan;
- 6.4. Develop appropriate monitoring and evaluation system / mechanism of the implementation of this Work Plan as well as project proposals, taking into account ASEAN's project management framework;
- 6.5. Regularly review this Work Plan through the existing mechanisms, with the ASEAN CPR Plus Three Meeting as the monitoring mechanism;
- 6.6. The ASEAN Coordinator for APT cooperation to prepare concise progress reports on the implementation of the Work Plan for submission to the annual APT Summit; and
- 6.7. Encourage ASEAN-China Centre, ASEAN-Japan Centre, and ASEAN-ROK Centre to exchange ideas and experiences in order to consolidate cooperative projects to promote trade, investment, tourism, cultural exchanges, and people-to-people contact between ASEAN and the Plus Three countries.