

**SUMMARY REPORT OF
THE 1st MEETING OF ASEAN PLUS THREE EMERGENCY RICE RESERVE
(APTERR) COUNCIL**

28-29 MARCH 2013; BANGKOK, THAILAND

INTRODUCTION

1. The 1st Meeting of ASEAN Plus Three Emergency Rice Reserve (APTERR) Council was held on 28-29 March 2013 in Bangkok, Thailand. The Meeting was organized by the APTERR Secretariat and hosted by the Office of Agricultural Economics (OAE), Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives (MOAC), Thailand.

2. The Meeting was attended by Members of the APTERR Council and their delegates from ASEAN Plus Three Countries. Representatives of the ASEAN Secretariat, Asian Development Bank (ADB), ASEAN Food Security Reserve Board (AFSRB), ASEAN Food Security Information System (AFSIS) and APTERR Secretariat were also in attendance. The list of delegates appears as **ANNEX 1**.

3. The Meeting was co-chaired by Mr. Apichart Jongskul, Secretary General of OAE, MOAC of Thailand and Mr. Hirotsugu Amamiya, Councillor, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF), Japan.

OPENING SESSION

4. Mr. Apichart Jongskul, Secretary General of OAE, MOAC of Thailand delivered his Welcoming Remarks. He expressed his profound gratitude to Mr. Yukol Limlamthong, Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives for his presence to preside over the 1st Meeting of the APTERR Council. He highlighted that the APTERR members had discussed and worked closely to develop the fundamental documents for the operation of the APTERR Secretariat with an aim to submit these documents for consideration in this Meeting. He emphasised that the Rules and Procedures of Release and Replenishment of Rice Reserve and the Rules and Procedures of the Council were ready for consideration and adoption by the APTERR Council at this Meeting. He reiterated that the progress of other related documents as well as work and budget plan would be reported to the APTERR Council. At the end of his Remarks, he thanked all APTERR Council members, delegates, representatives from ASEAN Secretariat, AFSRB, AFSIS and other participants for their participation in this Meeting. He also thanked the ADB and the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) of Japan for the financial support since the APTERR's preparatory stage; and the OAE for hosting and supporting this Meeting. The full text of his Welcoming Remarks appears as **ANNEX 2**.

5. Mr. Yukol Limlamthong, Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Thailand delivered his Opening Address. He expressed a warm welcome to distinguished delegates from the APTERR Parties and other well-known food security related organisations to the inaugural Meeting of the APTERR Council. He expressed his appreciation to the APTERR Council Members, representatives from AFSRB, AFSIS and ADB as well as all delegates. He emphasized the aims of the APTERR which are to respond the emergency requirement and to achieve humanitarian purposes. He also expressed his sincere appreciation to the Japanese Government to continue the funding for the Tier 3 program. This would help the APTERR to take a quick and efficient action to respond to the humanitarian needs amid natural disasters and emergency situation. Regarding the progress of the establishment of the APTERR Secretariat in Thailand, he informed the Meeting that the OAE has worked closely with the Ministry of Foreign

Affairs and Office of the Council of State and relevant governmental agencies in order to acquire the legal entity and provide the privileges for the APTERR Secretariat and its staff in compliance with the Thai Law. In addition, he extended a warm invitation for delegates to attend the grand opening of the APTERR Secretariat's office on 29 March 2013 at the OAE Building. This office would be a center for cooperation among the APTERR members as well as facilitating the implementation of the APTERR activities. The full text of his Opening Address appears as **ANNEX 3**.

CLOSED SESSION

Agenda Item 1: ELECTION OF CO-CHAIRS

6. The Meeting unanimously elected Mr. Apichart Jongskul, Secretary General of OAE, MOAC of Thailand and Mr. Hirotsugu Amamiya, Councillor, MAFF of Japan as Co-Chairs of the 1st Meeting of APTERR Council.

Agenda Item 2: ADOPTION OF AGENDA

7. The Meeting adopted the agenda as amended, which appears as **ANNEX 4**.

Agenda Item 3: BUSINESS ARRANGEMENT

8. The Meeting was held in plenary. The delegates were briefed on programmes and other arrangements for the Meeting.

Agenda Item 4: UPDATE ON RATIFICATION OF THE APTERR AGREEMENT AND NOMINATION OF THE APTERR COUNCIL MEMBER

9. The ASEAN Secretariat updated the status of ratification of the APTERR Agreement and nomination of the APTERR Council Member.

10. The Meeting noted that 12 APTERR Parties had deposited their instruments of ratification with the ASEAN Secretariat while the Republic of Korea (ROK) has yet to ratify the Agreement. The Meeting also noted that ROK was in her domestic ratification process, and it was expected to be ready by June 2013.

11. The Meeting took note that nine APTERR Parties namely Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Japan submitted their nominations of Council Member, Coordinating Agency and Country Coordinator to the ASEAN Secretariat. The other APTERR Parties were encouraged to submit their nominations.

Agenda Item 5: UPDATE ON CONTRIBUTION PLAN FOR ENDOWMENT FUND AND OPERATIONAL COST

12. The APTERR Secretariat updated on the bank account and contribution plan for endowment fund and operational cost.

13. The Meeting was informed that the APTERR Secretariat in cooperation with the OAE,

MOAC of Thailand opened the bank account and informed APTERR Parties the bank account numbers for endowment fund and for operational cost.

14. The Meeting noted that two APTERR Parties, namely Thailand and ROK had submitted contribution plan to the APTERR Secretariat while other APTERR Parties were on their process.

15. The Meeting also took note on the request to the APTERR Secretariat to circulate the formal letter informing the official launch of the APTERR Secretariat and bank account numbers to the APTERR Parties for their internal process in order to transfer the endowment fund and operational cost to the APTERR Secretariat.

Agenda Item 6: PROGRESS ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE APTERR SECRETARIAT IN THAILAND

16. The APTERR Secretariat presented the progress on the establishment of the APTERR Secretariat in Thailand, which appears as **ANNEX 5**.

17. The Meeting was informed that the APTERR Secretariat will be officially launched on 29 March 2013.

18. The Meeting was informed that at present the MOAC of Thailand has been consulted with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Council of State and Revenue Department regarding the privileges and facilities accorded to APTERR Secretariat and its legal personality. The legal personality of APTERR Secretariat could be established through the enactment of the Act. APTERR Secretariat expected to acquire its legal personality by December 2014.

19. The Meeting noted that APTERR Secretariat has prepared to recruit the General Manager (GM) according to the Guidelines on the APTERR Executive Recruitment Procedures. The Meeting endorsed the commencement of the recruitment of the GM.

20. The Meeting was informed that APTERR Secretariat employed the staff to support its operation since the preparatory stage. In order to continue working effectively, the Meeting endorsed the transfer of the current seven staff (five staff and two support staff) to the permanent APTERR Secretariat. The two support staff should be reflected in the organisational chart.

Agenda Item 7: ADOPTION OF APTERR KEY DOCUMENTS

21. The APTERR Secretariat presented the final draft of APTERR key documents for submission to the APTERR Council for consideration and endorsement, which appears as **ANNEX 6**.

22. The Meeting considered and endorsed the Rules and Procedures of Release and Replenishment of Rice Reserves, which appears as **ANNEX 7**.

23. The Meeting considered and endorsed the Rules and Procedures of the APTERR Council, which appears as **ANNEX 8**.

24. The Meeting considered and endorsed the Rules and Procedures of the APTERR Secretariat, which appears as **ANNEX 9**.

25. The Meeting noted that changes to be made to the Guidelines on the APTERR

Executive Recruitment Procedures were not captured in the revised documents. The Meeting advised the APTERR Secretariat to make the necessary changes before submission to Council for ad referendum approval. Accordingly, the APTERR Secretariat made a revision to the Guidelines on the APTERR Executive Recruitment Procedures including the application form of the General Manager, which appear as **ANNEX 10** and **ANNEX 11**.

Agenda Item 8: PROGRESS ON APTERR KEY DOCUMENTS

26. The APTERR Secretariat presented the progress on APTERR key documents, namely the Administrative Regulations and the Rules and Procedures of Financial Management of the APTERR Secretariat, which appears as **ANNEX 12**.

27. The Meeting took note of the Revised Draft Administrative Regulations as of 27 March 2013, which appears as **ANNEX 13**, incorporated comments made at the 4th Regional Consultation on Related Documents for the Operation of the APTERR Secretariat.

28. The Meeting took note of the Revised Draft Rules and Procedures of Financial Management of the APTERR Secretariat as of 27 March 2013, which appears as **ANNEX 14**, incorporated comments made at the 4th Regional Consultation on Related Documents for the Operation of the APTERR Secretariat.

**Agenda Item 9: REPORT ON AUDITED FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT OF THE
APTERR SECRETARIAT**

29. The APTERR Secretariat presented the Report on Audited Financial Management of the APTERR Secretariat, which appears as **ANNEX 15**.

30. The Meeting took note of the Audited Financial Report of APTERR during the Preparatory Stage (1 April 2010 – 30 June 2012) including Auditor's Report, which appear as **ANNEX 16** and **ANNEX 17**.

**Agenda Item 10: REALIZATION OF WORK PLAN AND BUDGET PLAN FOR
FISCAL YEAR 2012 (1 APRIL 2012 – 31 MARCH 2013)**

31. The APTERR Secretariat presented the realization of work plan and budget plan for fiscal year 2012, which appears as **ANNEX 18**.

32. The Meeting endorsed the realization of work plan and budget plans for fiscal year 2012, which appears as **ANNEX 19**.

**Agenda Item 11: PROPOSED WORK PLAN AND BUDGET PLAN FOR FISCAL
YEAR 2013**

33. The APTERR Secretariat presented the work plan and budget plan for fiscal year 2013, which appears as **ANNEX 20**.

34. The Meeting endorsed the work plan and budget plan for fiscal year 2013, which appears as **ANNEX 21**.

35. The Meeting took note that in response to the request from the APTERR Secretariat,

MAFF of Japan accepted to support operational cost of the Secretariat until the GM assumes duty in August 2013 using the contribution by Japan. Also, the meeting took note an intension of MAFF, Japan that the budget contributed by Japan will be used for in-kind and in-cash stockpiles as Japanese contribution of Tier 3 program in the future. The Council of Philippines addressed to welcome abovementioned Japanese intention mentioning advantage of cash stockpile.

Agenda Item 12: OTHER MATTERS

36. The representative from Thailand presented the Final Report on the Implementation of Tier 3 Program in Thailand in 2011. The presentation and document appear as **ANNEX 22** and **ANNEX 23**.

37. The Meeting took note of the Final Report on the Implementation of Tier 3 Program in Thailand.

38. The representative from Indonesia presented the Final Report on the Implementation of Tier 3 Program in Indonesia in 2012. The presentation and document appear as **ANNEX 24** and **ANNEX 25**.

39. The Meeting took note of the Final Report on the Implementation of Tier 3 Program in Indonesia.

40. The representative from Lao PDR presented the Progress Report on the Implementation of Tier 3 Program in Lao PDR, which appears as **ANNEX 26**.

41. The Meeting took note of the Progress Report on the Implementation of Tier 3 Program in Lao PDR.

42. The representative from the Philippines presented the Progress Report on the Implementation of Tier 3 Program in the Philippines, which appears as **ANNEX 27**.

43. The Meeting took note of the Progress Report on the Implementation of Tier 3 Program in the Philippines.

44. The Meeting took note that to facilitate the implementation of APTERR Program, APTERR Parties should provide to the APTERR Secretariat critical information, such as the sanitary and phytosanitary and laboratory tests requirements, the major ports of call for unloading of rice, and the contact details of agencies and persons of receiving countries for cargo clearance permit. In addition, to identify rice contributed by APTERR Parties, the APTERR logo should be placed on the bags of rice.

Agenda Item 13: DATE AND VENUE OF THE 2nd APTERR COUNCIL MEETING

45. The Meeting noted that the 2nd Meeting of APTERR Council will be hosted by Vietnam. The APTERR Secretariat in coordination with Vietnam will confirm the exact date and venue of the meeting in due course

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

46. The delegates from the ASEAN Plus Three Countries expressed their appreciation to the Office of Agricultural Economics, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives of Thailand for hosting this Meeting and their hospitality accorded to all delegates. The Meeting thanked the

APTERR Secretariat for the excellent arrangements made for the Meeting.

47. The Meeting was held in the spirit of the ASEAN Plus Three co-operation and cordiality.

29 March 2013, Bangkok, Thailand