

**SUMMARY REPORT
OF
THE 8th MEETING OF ASEAN PLUS THREE EMERGENCY RICE RESERVE (APTERR) COUNCIL**

17 – 19 February 2020, Bagan, Myanmar

INTRODUCTION

1. The 8th Meeting of ASEAN Plus Three Emergency Rice Reserve (APTERR) Council was held on 17-19 February 2020 in Bagan, Myanmar. The Meeting was organised by the APTERR Secretariat and hosted by the Department of Agriculture (DOA), Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation (MOALI) of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.
2. The Meeting was attended by the members of the APTERR Council and the delegates from ASEAN Plus Three countries except Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia and the Republic of Korea (ROK) due to unforeseen domestic circumstances. Representatives from the ASEAN Food Security Reserve Board (AFSRB) Secretariat, the ASEAN Plus Three Food Security Information System (AFSIS) Secretariat and the APTERR Secretariat were also present at the Meeting. The list of delegates appears in **ANNEX 1**.
3. The Meeting was chaired only by Mr. Aye Ko Ko, Deputy Director General of the DOA of the MOALI due to the absence of the APTERR Council from the ROK as an ongoing Co-Chair.

OPENING SESSION

4. H.E. Kyaw Min Oo, Permanent Secretary of Agriculture Sector, the MOALI, expressed his warmest welcome to all delegates to the 8th Meeting of APTERR Council held in Bagan during 17-19 February 2020. Then, he emphasised on food security and climate changes as concerned issues worldwide. In particular, the changes in rainfalls and temperatures have malicious impact on the capability of food production. Therefore, to protect people from food insecurity, he stressed that the APTERR implementation will ensure the access of food security and eradicate extreme hunger and poverty in the region. He also deeply expressed his gratitude to the ASEAN Plus Three countries, especially Japan and the ROK, for their valuable supports and assistance for smooth implementation of Tier 3 programme in Myanmar. Before ending his welcoming address, he expressed his pleasure and appreciation to the organising committee of the meeting for their hard work and wished the 8th Meeting of APTERR Council a success. His welcome address appears in **ANNEX 2**.
5. Dr. Ye Tint Tun, Director General of DOA, the MOALI, honorarily delivered the opening remarks to all participants to the 8th Meeting of APTERR Council. In the recent past years, Myanmar faced drastically natural disasters every year affecting over hundred thousand hectares of paddy and other crops among 11 regions and states. Thus, Myanmar has been actively participating to the APTERR Tier 3 programme since 2017 to help affected people who need an emergency rice food assistance. Under Tier 3 programme, during 2017-2018, Myanmar received and stored totally 1,000-MT rice of which 500-MT was from the ROK and another 500-MT rice from Japan. He also informed the Meeting that Myanmar had done the

financial contribution to the Operational Cost (OC) for the second five-year phase of 2018-2022. In the conclusion, he congratulated the organising committee of the meeting and wished the 8th Meeting of APTERR Council to be finished successfully. His opening remarks appears in **ANNEX 3**.

CLOSED SESSION

Agenda Item 1: OPENING STATEMENT BY THE OUTGOING CO-CHAIRS OF APTERR COUNCIL

6. Mr. Badaruddin Mohd Kassim, Deputy Under Secretary of Paddy and Rice Industry Division, the Ministry of Agriculture and Agro-Based Industry of Malaysia, expressed his sincere appreciation to all delegates for participating in the Meeting. He underlined that since the APTERR was established in 2011, the APTERR has shown many progresses in achieving its purposes to strengthen food security, alleviate poverty and eradicate malnourishment in the APTERR member countries, especially in time of emergency. In this regard, he shared a current food security situation in Malaysia. The country has been facing the issue of microbial diseases that becomes limiting factors of rice productivity and causes serious threats to food security. He hoped that the APTERR could take into consideration of these issues by sharing technical knowledge and information or expanding a scope of rice contribution to the affected country. Lastly, he also extended his sincere gratitude to the Government of Myanmar as a host country and the APTERR Secretariat for their hard work on organising the meeting and he also believed that the 8th Meeting of APTERR Council will be very fruitful and successful.

7. Mr. Yusaku Hirakata, Director General of Crop Production Policy Bureau, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan, emphasised the importance of participating in the 8th Meeting of APTERR Council in order to work and discuss together in response to the natural disaster in the ASEAN Plus three region. As the climate change has been recently increasing, the APTERR has made significant efforts to enhance food security in the region. He also mentioned to the first trial implementation of Tier 1 programme which was signed between the Philippines and Japan in October 2018. Before the end, he emphasised that Japan is committed to support further growth of APTERR in cooperation with other member countries and wished all delegates a successful and productive meeting.

Agenda Item 2: REMARKS BY THE CO-CHAIRS OF THE APTERR COUNCIL

8. Mr. Aye Ko Ko, a Co-Chair from Myanmar, delightedly expressed his sincere appreciation to all delegates for being together at the 8th Meeting of APTERR Council. Since 2011 as a member of APTERR, Myanmar has actively participated in APTERR activities, particularly in APTERR Tier 3 programme. Myanmar received a voluntary rice contribution in total of 3,100 MT from the ROK, including 500 MT, 1,300 MT, and 500 MT in 2017, 2018 and 2019 respectively. Meanwhile, Japan also provided rice contribution to Myanmar with 500 MT in 2018 and 300 MT in 2019. These contributions were of great support to the thousands of the victim in Myanmar caused by various natural disasters as well as man-made calamities. He also stressed Myanmar's intention to participate in the APTERR Tier 1 programme as a

supplying country. In addition to this, he expressed his sympathy and compassion to the victims of the Taal Volcano eruption in the Philippines. Likewise, he expressed his deepest condolence to China, as well as people who suffer from the coronavirus outbreak. With the serious condition, he expressed his sincere gratitude to all delegates who attended the meeting and ensured the Meeting that the Myanmar Health Authorities have been paying great attention to strictly and cautiously prevent the virus at all entrances of Myanmar. His remarks appears in **ANNEX 4**.

Agenda Item 3: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

9. The Meeting adopted the agenda of the Meeting, which appears in **ANNEX 5**.

Agenda Item 4: BUSINESS ARRANGEMENT

10. The Meeting was held in plenary. The delegates were given a brief summary on the meeting programme and other arrangements for the Meeting.

Agenda Item 5: UPDATE ON THE RATIFICATION OF THE PROTOCOL TO AMEND THE ATTACHMENT 2 OF THE APTERR AGREEMENT

11. The APTERR Secretariat updated the Meeting on the progress of the instrument of ratification deposited by the APTERR Parties. The document and the presentation appear in **ANNEX 6** and **ANNEX 7**.

12. The Meeting was informed there were seven countries namely Brunei Darussalam, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Viet Nam, Japan and the ROK already deposited the instrument of ratification. The Meeting encouraged the remaining APTERR Parties to expedite the internal clearance for deposit of instrument of ratification to the ASEAN Secretariat to support a smooth operation and continuity of APTERR programmes.

Agenda Item 6: UPDATE ON THE STATUS OF THE ENDOWMENT FUND AND THE CONTRIBUTION FOR THE OPERATIONAL COST

13. The APTERR Secretariat reported on the contribution for the Endowment Fund (EF) and the annual contribution to the OC. The document and presentation appear in **ANNEX 8** and **ANNEX 9**.

14. The Meeting appreciated the efforts of the APTERR Secretariat on reducing costs and increasing revenues. In particular, a successful negotiation with a local bank for an exemption of all bank transfer fees/charges for the APTERR transaction through the Krungsri bank in Thailand was applauded.

15. To generate more interest income, the Meeting agreed with the APTERR Secretariat's recommendation to continually keep an interest of the EF from the first five years

in the EF fixed account.

16. The Meeting noted that the APTERR Secretariat will consider to transfer the interest from the fixed account to the OC account whenever it deems necessary or when the OC account has an inadequate amount for the annual expenditure and the APTERR Council will be informed.

17. The Meeting noted with satisfaction that Myanmar completely made the OC contribution for second five years.

18. The Meeting took note that Singapore reaffirmed their commitment to the OC contribution for the second five years (2018-2022). However, due to internal procedure, Singapore's contribution can be made only when the Protocol to Amend the Attachment 2 of the APTERR Agreement is fully ratified by all APTERR Parties.

19. The meeting took note that Thailand also has similar concern on the internal procedure. However, Thailand is seeking the possibility to start contribution as soon as possible.

Agenda Item 7: REPORT ON REALISATION OF WORK PLAN AND BUDGET PLAN FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019

20. The APTERR Secretariat presented the report on the Realisation of Work Plan and Budget Plan for Fiscal Year 2019 (1 January - 31 December 2019). The documents, presentations and audited annual financial report appear in **ANNEX 10** to **ANNEX 12**, respectively.

21. The Meeting endorsed the Realisation of Work Plan and Budget Plan for Fiscal Year 2019 (1 January - 31 December 2019).

22. The Meeting noted with appreciation the hard work of the APTERR Secretariat for realising the APTERR activities in compliance with the 2019 work plan. The APTERR mechanism has been efficient and effective in strengthening food security among the member countries.

23. The Meeting took notes of Thailand and Japan's recommendation on promoting the roles of APTERR to the public. The representative from Thailand commented the APTERR Secretariat to create the linkages with other international organisations, such as FAO, WFP, ADB and APEC, and take this opportunity to present its activities to be recognised in the world community. Meanwhile, the representative from Japan encouraged the member countries to use their various channels to promote the APTERR.

Agenda Item 8: WORK PLAN AND ANNUAL OPERATIONAL BUDGET PROPOSAL FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020

24. The APTERR Secretariat presented the proposed Work Plan and Annual Operational

Budget Proposal for Fiscal Year 2020. The document and presentation appear in **ANNEX 13** and **ANNEX 14**.

25. The Meeting endorsed the Work Plan and Annual Operational Budget Proposal for Fiscal Year 2020.

26. The Meeting expressed a sincere appreciation to the Government of Thailand in providing the office space at the new building of the Office of Agricultural Economics as well as the operation facilities to support and assist the works of APTERR. According to an update provided by the representative from Thailand, the APTERR Secretariat is expected to move to the new office in 2020.

27. The Meeting took notes of the representative from Thailand's recommendation to consider a possibility of increasing the earmarked stock to be in line with the frequency of natural disaster occurrence in the region as well as the pandemic caused by animal, plant and human disease outbreak.

Agenda Item 9: THE IMPLEMENTATION OF APTERR TIER 1 PROGRAMME

28. The APTERR Secretariat presented an update of the implementation of APTERR Tier 1 programme. The document and presentation appear in **ANNEX 15** and **ANNEX 16**.

29. The Meeting encouraged the member countries to participate in Tier 1 programme, particularly as the demanding countries. The Tier 1 programme will help ensure the member countries a sufficient rice supply as well as a rice price stability in time of emergency.

30. The representatives from Thailand and Viet Nam reaffirmed their intention to participate in Tier 1 programme as a supplying country.

Agenda Item 10: REPORT ON APTERR TIER 3 PROGRAMMES

31. The representatives from Lao PDR, Myanmar and the Philippines reported on the Tier 3 programme implementation in their country under Japan and the ROK's contributions. The presentations appear in **ANNEX 17** to **ANNEX 19**.

32. The Meeting welcomed the successful Tier 3 implementation of 1,000 MT and 500 MT of rice in Lao PDR and 500 MT of rice in Myanmar under the ROK's contribution as well as 560 MT of rice in the Philippines under Japan's contribution.

33. Representatives from Lao PDR, Myanmar and the Philippines expressed their sincere gratitude to the APTERR Council for their kind cooperation in the APTERR programmes as well as the APTERR Secretariat for facilitating and assisting the Tier 3 programme implementation. Special thanks were also made to the Government of Japan and the ROK for their generous contribution.

Agenda Item 11: PROGRESS ON ONGOING APTERR TIER 3 PROGRAMMES

34. The representatives from the APTERR Secretariat, Myanmar and the Philippines updated on the implementation of the ongoing Tier 3 programmes in 2020. The document and presentations appear in **ANNEX 20** to **ANNEX 23**.

35. The Meeting expressed a heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to the Government of Japan and the ROK for their continued contribution to the Tier 3 programme. The Meeting also welcomed Japan's new initiative on utilising a precooked rice to enhance the APTERR's capability on providing a timely rice assistance during an emergency situation.

36. The representative from Japan reiterated to continue making a voluntary contribution in term of food security to the APTERR programme. Japan also provides a total of 60,000 meals of precooked rice to be stored in prospective APTERR member countries through the pre-positioned stockpiled rice system in 2020.

Agenda Item 12: OTHER MATTERS

37. The APTERR consultant presented the result of the review and evaluation on the APTERR programme and activities to the Meeting. The document and presentation appear in **ANNEX 24** and **ANNEX 25**.

38. The Meeting noted the recommendation made by the APTERR consultant and commented that a further discussion is needed.

39. The Meeting noted the impressive progress of the AFSIS's works and appreciated the plan for considering to frequently provide more natural disaster-related information in the AFSIS reports to support the FEMI.

Agenda Item 13: DATE AND VENUE OF THE 9th MEETING OF APTERR COUNCIL

40. The Meeting noted that the 9th Meeting of APTERR Council would be hosted by the Government of the Philippines in February 2021 in Bohol Island. The APTERR Secretariat, in collaboration with the Philippines, would confirm the date and venue of the meeting in due course.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

41. The Meeting expressed a sincere appreciation to the MOALI of Myanmar for their warm hospitality and excellent arrangement made for the 8th Meeting of APTERR Council.

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