



**JOINT STATEMENT OF THE  
THIRTEENTH ASEAN PLUS THREE LABOUR MINISTERS MEETING  
(13<sup>TH</sup> ALMM+3)**

**31 OCTOBER 2024, SINGAPORE**

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1. The 13<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Plus Three Labour Ministers Meeting (ALMM+3) was held on 31 October 2024 in Singapore and chaired by H.E. Dr. Tan See Leng, Minister for Manpower of Singapore. The Meeting was attended by the representatives of ASEAN Member States, China, Japan and Republic of Korea (ROK), Secretary-General of ASEAN and their respective accompanying delegations. The representatives of Timor-Leste attended as observers.

**Exchange of Views on the Theme “Strengthening Resilience and Promoting Innovation”**

2. We recognised that since the inaugural ALMM in Jakarta in April 1975, the region has faced many challenges in improving labour conditions, employment standards, and competitiveness of all workers in the region. Through the longstanding cooperation among ASEAN Member States in line with the vision of a peaceful, prosperous and inclusive ASEAN Community, our economic growth in the past five decades has been robust and elevated ASEAN as the fifth largest economy in the world. We were pleased that the well-being and skills of ASEAN workers have improved significantly and committed to sustaining this progress amidst the changing world of work. We reaffirmed our common spirit of strengthening resilience and promoting innovation, which helps ASEAN Member States to navigate and manage the impact of technological advancement, digitalisation and greening of economies, demographical changes, labour migration and global supply chains on our labour markets. We agreed to promote closer cooperation among the ASEAN Plus Three Countries for the well-being of workers and their resilience in the future of work.

**Status of ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation in Labour**

3. We welcomed the support of the Plus Three Countries for the Vientiane Declaration on Skills Mobility, Recognition and Development of Migrant Workers, ASEAN Declaration on Portability of Social Security Benefits for Migrant Workers in ASEAN, ASEAN Declaration on the Placement and Protection of Migrant Fishers, and ASEAN Declaration on the Protection of Migrant Workers and Family Members

in Crisis Situations. We agreed to promote closer cooperation and knowledge sharing among the ASEAN Plus Three Countries related to the governance of labour migration in the region.

4. We were pleased with the progress achieved in promoting labour and employment conditions and economic growth in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic. We supported the progress made to implement the ASEAN Declaration on Promoting Competitiveness, Resilience, and Agility of Workers for the Future of Work. We welcomed the continued cooperation and support of the Plus Three Countries in preparing our workforce for the future.
5. We underscored the importance of ASEAN Plus Three cooperation on labour towards the long-term goal of deeper regional integration with ASEAN as the driving force. We noted with satisfaction the progress made in the Senior Labour Officials Meeting Plus Three (SLOM+3) Work Plan 2021-2025 and its contribution to the attainment of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025, ASEAN Social-Cultural Community (ASCC) Blueprint 2025, Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) 2025, and Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) Work Plan IV (2021-2025).
6. We appreciated the support of China in the implementation of the ILO-China Project on Strengthening Skills Development in Cambodia, Lao PDR, and Myanmar through South-South and Triangular Cooperation as well as the Project on Promoting the Global Development Initiative with a Focus on South-South Cooperation in Employment in ASEAN (ProSSCE-ASEAN). We noted the successful conduct of the Seminar on Promotion of High-Quality Employment on 19-20 October 2023 in Beijing, China-ASEAN Human Resources Cooperation and Development Forum and China-ASEAN Human Resources Service Expo on 3-4 November 2023 in Nanning, ASEAN-China Forum on Work Safety Cooperation on 4-5 December 2023 in Nanning, Workshop and Study Visit on Promoting Skills and Employment for Decent Work in Rural Development on 21-22 May 2024 in Huzhou, and Capacity Training on Urban Safe Development under the ASEAN-China Disaster Management Capacity Building Program 2024 on 20-26 October 2024, in Zhejiang Province.
7. We appreciated the support of Japan for numerous ASEAN projects, including the “Expanded Application of the ASEAN Guiding Principles for Strengthening Quality Assurance and Recognition of Competency Certification Systems” Project under the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund as well as a various contribution through ILO/Japan Multi-bilateral technical cooperation to ASEAN Member States and JICA technical assistance. We noted the successful convening of the annual ASEAN-Japan High-Level Officials Meetings on Caring Societies on 9-10 March 2023 virtually, with the theme “Age of the 100-Year of Life, Living True to Yourself,” and on 28-30 November 2023 in Oita with the theme “Towards building a society where everyone can live lively as being oneself in communities”. We looked

forward to the 22<sup>nd</sup> Meeting on 25-27 November 2024 in Kawasaki with the theme “A Virtuous Cycle of Achieving UHC (Universal Health Coverage) and Promoting a Healthy Society”.

8. We appreciated the support of the ROK for numerous ASEAN initiatives, including the Study on Enhancing the Competitiveness of ASEAN Human Resources through Responsive TVET Curriculum Supported by Involvement of Industries and Labour Market Information, and the ongoing ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) Research and Development Platforms: Future of Work and Future of Education. We observed the successful implementation of the ASEAN-ROK TVET Mobility Programme, with Batch 1 completed from June to December 2023 and Batch 2 and 3 ongoing from April to November 2024, and looked forward to the Final Workshop on 4-5 December 2024. We noted the successful convening of the annual ROK-ASEAN Policy Sharing Workshops in the Employment and Labour Sector on 1-2 December 2022 with the theme "Sharing of policy changes in the employment and labour due to the 4IR and the activation of digitalisation", on 30 November-1 December 2023 with the theme "ASEAN Job Prospects and Vocational Training Trends in the Digital Age", and on 30 September-1 October 2024 with the theme "Demographic Structure Change and Sustainable World of Work". We also noted the conduct of the annual ASEAN+3 Human Resource Development (HRD) Forum on 10-11 November 2022 with the theme “Digital Skills Development and TVET for Green, Resilient and Inclusive Growth”, and on 2-3 November 2023 with the theme “Digital Transformation for Innovative Human Resources Development”. We looked forward to another successful Forum on 7-8 November 2024 with the theme “Empowering the Workforce for Sustainable and Inclusive Future”.
9. We looked forward to the timely completion of the SLOM+3 Work Plan 2021-2025 through delivery of the remaining planned activities on skills transformation systems for the future of work, promotion of decent employment in rural areas, leadership in tripartism, and inclusive employment for persons with disabilities. We agreed to closely cooperate in developing the SLOM+3 Work Plan 2026-2030 and explore the inclusion of, but not limited to, promotion of sustainable entrepreneurship and employment, human resources development including green and digital skills, inclusive social security, and occupational safety and health that includes the hard-to-reach sectors, particularly migrant fishers in the region.
10. We expressed our sincere appreciation to the Government of Singapore, particularly the Ministry of Manpower, for the warm hospitality and excellent arrangement of the 13<sup>th</sup> ALMM+3. We also thanked the ASEAN Secretariat for its unwavering support in the preparations for and during the Meeting.
11. We agreed to meet again in 2026 under the ALMM+3 Chairmanship of Thailand.