

## **JOINT MINISTERIAL STATEMENT OF THE 10<sup>TH</sup> ASEAN SOCIO-CULTURAL COMMUNITY (ASCC) COUNCIL**

**26 September 2013**

**Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam**

1. The 10<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Council (10<sup>th</sup> ASCC Council) was convened on 26 September 2013 in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam. The 10<sup>th</sup> ASCC Council was preceded by the 15<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Senior Officials Committee for the ASCC (SOCA), held on 24 September 2013 in Bandar Seri Begawan.
2. The Meeting was officially opened by His Excellency, Pehin Dato Hazair Abdullah, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports of Brunei Darussalam. In his opening address, he welcomed all Ministers and their delegations to the Meeting and to Brunei Darussalam.
3. H.E. Pehin Hazair stated that in the recent years ASEAN had continued to place importance on the people, and their progress and development. He said the theme of Brunei Darussalam's chairmanship this year "Our People, Our Future Together" put priority on building a people-oriented and socially-responsible ASEAN Community. H.E. Pehin Hazair expressed confidence that ASEAN would achieve its socio-cultural goals if the momentum of recent years was maintained. Incorporating the human dimension in ASEAN's broader work of regional cooperation and community building, he said, would ensure that Member States and citizens equitably enjoy development and the benefits of economic integration.
4. The Ministers acknowledged that the primary goal of the ASCC is to contribute to realising the ASEAN Community that is people-centred and socially responsible, with a view to achieving enduring solidarity and unity among the nations and peoples of ASEAN, by forging a common identity and building a caring and sharing society which is inclusive and harmonious where the well-being, livelihood, and welfare of the peoples are enhanced.
5. With regard to the priority areas of 2013, the Ministers noted with satisfaction the various activities conducted and achievements made under the Youth, Culture, Sports, Education, the Disaster Management and Climate Change sectors. The Ministers expressed their sincere appreciation to the respective sectoral bodies for the efforts taken in accelerating the goals articulated in the ASCC Blueprint as well as facilitating the vision of an ASEAN Community through the sectoral initiatives.

6. In this connection, the Ministers acknowledged the various Joint Statements produced by the different ASCC ministerial meetings in 2013 as follows:

- Joint Ministerial Statement of the 8<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Youth
- Bandar Seri Begawan Declaration on Youth Volunteerism and Entrepreneurship.
- Joint Statement of the 8<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Ministers Meeting on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (AMRDPE);
- Joint Statement of the 8<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Social Welfare and Development (AMMSWD); and
- Joint Statement on the Implementation of Sustainable Consumption and Production in ASEAN, 14<sup>th</sup> Informal ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on the Environment (IAMME).

7. They noted with satisfaction the intensified efforts among ASEAN Member States to collaborate across sectors on cross-cutting issues, and through increased engagement of various stakeholders in the processes, as illustrated by the ASEAN Declaration on Social Protection, as well as in the promotion of ASEAN awareness, as exemplified by the ASEAN Young Professionals Volunteers Corps (AYPVC) and the ASEAN Youth Volunteers Programme (AYVP).

8. The Ministers endorsed the Report of the Mid Term Review (MTR) of the ASCC Blueprint implementation for the adoption of the 23<sup>rd</sup> ASEAN Summit. The Ministers expressed their appreciation to the Working Group of the Mid-Term Review of the ASCC Blueprint, which include the ASEAN Secretariat and the regional consultants, for all their hard work in reviewing the ASCC Blueprint as well as the recommendations made in the MTR.

9. Subsequently, the Ministers conveyed their appreciation to all SOCA focal points and their respective national consultants for undertaking the national assessments. On a final note related to the MTR, the Ministers expressed their gratitude to Brunei Darussalam for chairing the Review exercise and providing financial support to the regional assessment as well as the ASEAN Development Fund for the financing for the respective national aspects of the MTR.

10. The ASCC Council supported the 14<sup>th</sup> Informal ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on the Environment (IAMME) agreement to recommend to the ASEAN Leaders to adopt the ASEAN Sub-Regional Haze Monitoring System (HMS) as a joint haze monitoring system among MSC countries, with digitized land use maps and concession maps of fire-prone areas that cause transboundary haze to be shared on a Government-to-Government basis. The ASCC Council further supported the 14<sup>th</sup> IAMME agreement to take prompt action based on the decision of the ASEAN Leaders at the 23<sup>rd</sup> ASEAN Summit in October 2013.

11. In addition to the Report of the MTR of the ASCC Blueprint Implementation, the Ministers endorsed the outcome documents from the various sectoral bodies for submission to the 23<sup>rd</sup> ASEAN Summit, for the Leader's adoption and notation. The list of documents are as follows:

For adoption

- Bandar Seri Begawan Declaration on Youth Entrepreneurship and Employment
- Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women and Elimination of Violence Against Children in ASEAN
- ASEAN Declaration on Strengthening Social Protection
- Bandar Seri Begawan Declaration on Noncommunicable Diseases in ASEAN
- ASEAN Declaration on Enhancing Cooperation in Disaster Management

For notation

- ASEAN State of Education Report
- ASEAN-China Environmental Cooperation Plan II (2014-2015)
- ASEAN-China Cooperation Framework for Environmentally Sound Technology and Industry

12. In closing, the Ministers expressed their appreciation to Brunei Darussalam for the warm hospitality and excellent arrangement as the host of the 10<sup>th</sup> ASCC Council.

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