

**THE NINETEENTH ASEAN TRANSPORT MINISTERS MEETING
19 December 2013, Pakse City, Champasak Province, Lao PDR**

JOINT MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

1. The Nineteenth ASEAN Transport Ministers (ATM) Meeting was held on 19 December 2013 in Pakse City, Champasak Province, Lao PDR. H.E. Mr. Sommad Pholsena, Minister of Public Works and Transport of Lao PDR, chaired the Meeting, and H.E. Mr. Nyan Htun Aung, Union Minister for Transport of Myanmar was the Vice-Chairperson. The 19th ATM Meeting was preceded by the 36th ASEAN Senior Transport Officials Meeting (STOM) and their consultations with dialogue partners held on 16-18 December 2013.

2. The 19th ATM was officially opened by H.E. Mr. Thongsing Thammavong, the Prime Minister of Lao PDR. In his Opening Remarks, Prime Minister Thammavong extended his warm welcome to all delegates to the City of Pakse in Champasak Province. He cited that Lao PDR has achieved significant progress in the development of transport facilities, especially in multimodal transport which includes roads, waterways, air and railways. He also highlighted numerous challenges, such as the development and improvement of transport infrastructure that Lao PDR as well as ASEAN Member States have to work together in order to support the establishment of ASEAN integration. He further emphasised the need of concerted efforts to effectively address the challenges and realise the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity. He believed that the 19th ATM Meeting would significantly contribute to further promoting and enhancing transport development cooperation, especially ASEAN Connectivity, in a smooth, speedy, safe and modern manner. Lastly, he wished the 19th ATM and its associated meetings a great success.

Enhance integrated and sustainable transport network

3. The Ministers affirmed their commitments to establish an efficient, secure and integrated transport network to support the timely realisation of an ASEAN Economic Community by 2015. The Ministers noted the Bandar Seri Begawan Declaration on the ASEAN Community's Post 2015 Vision where the Leaders tasked the ASEAN Coordinating Council to establish a Working Group comprising of Senior Officials from the three pillars to develop the central elements of the Vision for their endorsement next year.

4. Pursuant to the Leaders' mandate, the Ministers tasked its senior officials to work on the post-2015 vision and roadmap for ASEAN transport cooperation and integration including the establishment of a Task Force.

Enhance regional air transport cooperation

5. The Ministers welcomed the progress made on the Implementation Framework of the ASEAN Single Aviation Market (ASAM) particularly the adoption of both the Air

Transport Economic Cooperation Work Plan (2014-2015) and Air Transport Technical Cooperation Work Plan (2014-2015) to further facilitate the establishment of the ASAM.

6. The Ministers also commended the conclusion of the Eighth Package of Commitments on Air Transport Services under the ASEAN Framework Agreement on Services (AFAS) which will further liberalise air transport ancillary services in the region. The Ministers subsequently signed the Protocol to implement the package of commitments on air transport services.

Facilitate greater cross border movement of goods and passengers

7. The Ministers welcomed the progress made under the implementation of the Transit Transport Coordinating Board (TTCB) Overall Work Plan, particularly the conclusion of Protocol 7 (Customs Transit System) of the ASEAN Framework Agreement on the Facilitation of Goods in Transit (AFAFGIT) and looked forward to its signing at the earliest opportunity. The Ministers looked forward to the early conclusion of Protocol 2 (Designation of Frontier Posts) of AFAFGIT.

8. The Ministers emphasised the importance of the ASEAN Framework Agreement on the Facilitation of Cross Border Transport of Passengers by Road Vehicles (ASEAN CBTP) to facilitate greater cross-border mobility of passengers and called for its early conclusion.

Strengthen ASEAN maritime cooperation

9. The Ministers welcomed the progress made to facilitate the free flow of intra-ASEAN shipping services through the completion of various measures under the ASTP/BAP, including the conclusion of the Study on Formulating an ASEAN Single Shipping Market (ASSM) Implementing Strategy. The Ministers also welcomed the establishment of a task force to promote and monitor the implementation of the ASSM.

10. The Ministers recognised the importance of effective preparation for and response to oil pollution incidents at the national, sub-regional and regional levels to minimise the damage from an oil spill. The Ministers look forward to the signing of the MOU on ASEAN Cooperation Mechanism for Joint Oil Spill Preparedness and Response at the next ATM meeting.

11. The Ministers supported the initiative to convene the inaugural Roundtable Discussion on Safety and Health in Ports in conjunction with the ASEAN Occupational Safety and Health Network (ASEAN-OSHNET) Coordinating Board (COB) Meeting, to create greater synergies in the area of occupational safety and health in ports.

Strengthen Collaboration with Dialogue Partners

12. The Ministers expressed their appreciation to China, Japan and ROK for the technical assistance rendered to ASEAN Member States under their respective established transport partnerships. The Ministers also expressed their appreciation to EU

and Germany for their continued support to ASEAN in forging ahead with its transport integration process.

13. Under the ASEAN-China Transport Partnership, the Ministers agreed to sign the Protocol 2 on the Fifth Freedom Traffic Rights of the ASEAN-China Air Transport Agreement to further facilitate air connectivity between and beyond both regions. The Ministers welcomed the effort of the ASEAN-China Working Group Meeting on Regional Air Services Arrangements to focus on the operationalisation of ASEAN-China Air Transport Agreement and its Protocols.

14. For ASEAN-Japan Transport Partnership (AJTP), the Ministers welcomed the adoption of new AJTP policies for implementation in the next decade, the launching of ASEAN-Japan Transport Statistics Book to link transport policies development through the compilation of statistical database of road, rail, water and air transport sector in ASEAN and Japan. The Ministers also welcomed Japan's recent announcement to work towards the conclusion of a regional air services agreement with ASEAN. In this context, the Ministers endorsed the establishment of the ASEAN-Japan Working Group on Regional Air Services Agreement to start negotiations on an ASEAN-Japan Air Services Agreement. The Working Group will discuss various matters related to enhancing air connectivity for ASEAN Member States and Japan.

15. Under ASEAN-ROK Transport Partnership, the Ministers welcomed the progress made in advancing transport cooperation between ASEAN and ROK and look forward to the revision of the ASEAN-ROK Transport Cooperation Roadmap at the next ATM+ROK meeting.

16. Recognising the potential for comprehensive aviation cooperation on a region-to-region basis, the Ministers welcomed and looked forward to the convening of the 1st EU-ASEAN Aviation Summit (EAAS) to be held on 11-12 February 2014 in Singapore, which would serve as a useful platform to deepen the strategic aviation dialogue between ASEAN and the EU with the aim of concluding a comprehensive air transport agreement between the two regions. The Ministers also encouraged key stakeholders from the aviation industry to participate in the EAAS.

17. The Ministers welcomed the progress made in implementing the ASEAN Regional Integration Support from EU (ARISE) and the EU-ASEAN Air Transport Integration Project (EU-AATIP) programmes which will further enhance transport facilitation and air transport cooperation in the region, respectively.

18. The Ministers welcomed the signing of the Implementation Agreement of the Energy Efficiency and Climate Change Mitigation in the Land Transport Sector Project with Germany, which would contribute to a regional approach towards improving energy efficiency and reducing or mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions from land transport.

Engaging Development Partners

19. The Ministers recognised the importance of establishing and enhancing linkages with development partners for the timely realisation of the measures stipulated in

ASTP/BAP and the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC). At the Special Meeting between the ATM+Dialogue Partners and the Development Partners, the Ministers had a good exchange of views with the development partners as to how they could help ASEAN in achieving an efficient, integrated transport connectivity in the region, particularly through the provision of technical and financial assistance for prioritised transport infrastructure projects. The Ministers expressed appreciation to the development partners, e.g., Asian Development Bank (ADB), Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), and Exim Bank of China, for their interest and active participation. The Ministers look forward to their continued support in implementing various transport initiatives to support the establishment of an AEC.

Twentieth ATM

20. The Ministers expressed their sincere appreciation to the Government and people of Lao PDR for the warm hospitality accorded to the delegations and the excellent arrangements made for the Meeting. The Ministers agreed to meet for the 20th ATM in Mandalay, Myanmar in 2014.



LIST OF MINISTERS

- (a) H.E. Pehin Dato Abdullah Bakar, Minister of Communications of Brunei Darussalam;
- (b) H.E. Mr. Tram Iv Tek, Minister of Public Works and Transport of Cambodia;
- (c) H.E. Mr. Bambang Susantono, Vice Minister for Transportation of Indonesia;
- (d) H.E. Mr. Sommad Pholsena, Minister of Public Works and Transport of Lao PDR;
- (e) H.E. Datuk Ab Aziz Bin Kaprawi, Deputy Minister of Transport of Malaysia;
- (f) H.E. Mr. Nyan Htun Aung, Union Minister for Transport of Myanmar;
- (g) H.E. Atty. Catherine Jennifer P. Gonzales, Undersecretary of Transportation and Communications of the Philippines;
- (h) H.E. Mr. Lui Tuck Yew, Minister for Transport of Singapore;
- (i) Mr. Teerapong Rodprasert, Deputy Permanent Secretary, representing H.E. Mr. Chadchart Sittipunt, Minister of Transport of Thailand;
- (j) H.E. Mr. Dinh La Thang, Minister of Transport of Viet Nam; and
- (k) H.E. Mr. Lim Hong Hin, Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN for ASEAN Economic Community.

