



JOINT COMMUNIQUÉ

THE SIXTH ASEAN MINISTERS MEETING ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ERADICATION

27 May 2009, Ha Noi, Viet Nam

1. The Sixth ASEAN Ministers Meeting on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (6th AMRDPE) was held on 27 May 2009 in Ha Noi, Viet Nam, preceded by the Preparatory Senior Officials Meeting on 25-26 May 2009 and the Second ASEAN Plus Three Senior Officials Meeting on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication on 26 May 2009. The 6th AMRDPE adopted the theme “*A Unified ASEAN for Anti-poverty in the Context of Economic Crisis*”.

2. The Opening Ceremony of the 6th AMRDPE was officiated by H.E. Mr. Nguyen Tan Dung, Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam. In the Opening Remarks, His Excellency highlighted the need for a stronger commitment and greater investments in rural development and poverty eradication and to formulate effective strategies to realise the ASEAN Community by 2015 in the context of the current global economic crisis. His Excellency informed that the Government of Viet Nam had adopted stimulus packages to stabilise the national macro economy and financial system, control inflation and maintain economic growth at 6.2% in 2008 and 3.1% in the first quarter of 2009. The economic growth rate of Viet Nam was forecast for 5% in 2009 and higher in subsequent years. His Excellency called for the following regional actions: (a) specific measures to respond to the social impacts of the global economic crisis on rural development and poverty eradication, including stronger investments on agriculture and rural areas; (b) a new action programme on rural development and poverty eradication and an action plan on social safety network in ASEAN based on the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) Blueprint and IAI Work Plan II; (c) new initiatives to strengthening governance, enhancing the participation and empowerment of women and vulnerable groups; and (d) resource mobilisation and fostered cooperation within ASEAN with Dialogue Partners, including the Plus Three Countries, to narrowing the development gap.

3. The 6th AMRDPE was attended by the ASEAN Ministers responsible for rural development and poverty eradication or their representatives. The Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN was also in attendance. The list of the Ministers or their representatives is attached.

Towards the ASEAN Community by 2015

4. The Meeting welcomed the entry into force of the ASEAN Charter on 15 December 2008. The Ministers also welcomed the signing of the Cha-am Hua Hin Declaration on the Roadmap for the ASEAN Community (2009-2015) and the adoption of the ASEAN Political-Security Community (APSC) Blueprint, ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) Blueprint, IAI Strategic Framework and IAI Work Plan II (2009-2015) by the ASEAN Leaders at their 14th Summit on 28 February - 1 March 2009 in Cha-am Hua Hin, Thailand, following the adoption of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) Blueprint at the 13th ASEAN Summit on 20 November 2007 in Singapore.

5. The Ministers committed themselves to using the ASCC Blueprint, IAI Strategic Framework and IAI Work Plan II (2009-2015) to guide ASEAN Member States in strengthening, deepening and widening cooperation on rural development and poverty eradication within ASEAN and with the Plus Three Countries and other Dialogue Partners.

6. The Ministers noted with satisfaction the continued efforts made in addressing the priorities under the ASEAN Framework Action Plan on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (2004-2010). The Ministers tasked the Senior Officials to prioritise their future activities towards the implementation of the relevant Strategic Objectives of the ASCC Blueprint, IAI Strategic Framework and Work Plan II (2009-2015). The Ministers further tasked the Senior Officials to appoint their national focal points to develop their respective work plans and regional activities to implement the relevant action lines of the ASCC Blueprint and to coordinate with other relevant Ministries.

Attainment of the Millennium Development Goals in ASEAN

7. Adhering to the Joint Declaration on the Attainment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in ASEAN adopted by the ASEAN Leaders at their 14th Summit, the Ministers tasked the Senior Officials to coordinate with other relevant ASEAN bodies in finalising and implementing the ASEAN Roadmap on the MDGs. The Roadmap would serve as a guideline for collective actions to further accelerate the attainment of the MDGs in ASEAN focusing on the five areas of advocacy and linkages, knowledge, resources, expertise and regional cooperation and regional public goods.

Addressing the Social Impacts of the Global Financial Crisis

8. The Ministers called for more concerted efforts by Member States in the spirit of "ASEAN-help-ASEAN" in addressing issues pertaining to rural development and poverty eradication and in narrowing the development gap in the region.

9. The Ministers tasked the Senior Officials, with the support of the ASEAN Secretariat, to document best practices and challenges of ASEAN Member States in implementing their respective policies and programmes on rural development and

poverty eradication to facilitate information sharing among Member States and the development of concerted efforts in narrowing the development gap in the region.

10. The Ministers endorsed the proposal to commence a rapid assessment in ASEAN on the social impact of the global financial crisis and policy responses that had been taken by ASEAN Member States individually. The assessment results could serve as a basis to inform ASEAN in the formulation of appropriate regional policies and strategic response to mitigate social implications of the global financial crisis. It is expected that the assessment findings and policy recommendations could be submitted as feedback to the ASEAN Leaders at their 15th Summit scheduled in October 2009 in Thailand.

11. The Ministers welcomed the convening of the Fourth ASEAN+3 High-Level Seminar on Poverty Reduction which is being organised by Viet Nam in collaboration with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) scheduled for 28-30 September 2009 in Ha Noi. The Seminar would adopt the theme *“Impact of the Global Economic Slowdown on Poverty and Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific”*.

Promotion of Community-driven Activities to Narrowing the Development Gap

12. The Ministers supported the various initiatives of the Senior Officials to promote community-driven activities and people-to-people interactions aimed at narrowing the development gap in the region, including:

- ASEAN Rural Youth Volunteers Movement led by Indonesia to bring together youth professional volunteers from the region to support rural communities in their development efforts. The first deployment of ASEAN volunteers to participate in the National Programme for Community Empowerment (PNPM Mandiri) in Tasikmalaya and Pekalongan, Indonesia, was scheduled in the second half of 2009.
- ASEAN+3 Village Leaders Exchange Programme led by Malaysia in building the capacity of village leaders among Member States in promoting development in rural areas through building of networks, enhancing knowledge through study visits and exchanging of experiences.
- Sharing of Thailand’s best practices on her Baan Mankong Programme, which is a city-wide “Cities without Slums” housing development programme, as well as her grassroots economic development and poverty alleviation programmes, including the One Tambon One Product (OTOP), Urban Community and Village Fund (UCVF) and Small Medium Large (SML) community development fund scheme which is now called as Sufficiency Economy Fund.
- Development of a regional poverty eradication programme for the socially vulnerable groups, including people with disabilities, women, children, elderly and those affected by natural disasters, led by the Philippines.

Regional Statistics on Poverty

13. The Ministers endorsed the initiative of the Senior Officials to work towards the compilation of regional statistics on poverty to enhance research, assessment and monitoring of poverty in the region.

Partnerships with the Plus Three Countries

14. The Ministers welcomed the convening of the Second ASEAN Plus Three Senior Officials Meeting on 26 May 2009. The Ministers noted that new initiatives had been put forward by ASEAN and the Plus Three Countries to strengthen joint efforts in the area of rural development and poverty eradication. In particular, the Ministers supported the holding of the: (i) Fourth ASEAN+3 High-Level Seminar on Poverty Reduction scheduled on 28-30 September 2009 in Ha Noi; and (ii) Second ASEAN+3 Human Security Symposium on Women and Poverty Eradication in Japan scheduled for September or November 2009.

15. The Ministers encouraged the Senior Officials to exert efforts in the implementation of joint activities under the SOMRDPE+3 platform in line with the action lines stipulated in the ASCC Blueprint (2009-2015), Framework Action Plan on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (2004-2010) and the ASEAN+3 Cooperation Work Plan (2007-2017).

7th AMRDPE

16. The Ministers agreed that the Seventh ASEAN Ministers Meeting on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (7th AMRDPE) would be held in Brunei Darussalam in 2011.

17. The Ministers lauded the Senior Officials on their efforts to implement the directives and decisions of the ASEAN Leaders and Ministers in strengthening cooperation on rural development and poverty eradication in ASEAN.

18. The Ministers expressed their deep gratitude to the Government of Viet Nam for the warm hospitality and arrangement for the Meeting. The Ministers also expressed their appreciation to the ASEAN Secretariat for the assistance rendered.

**LIST OF MINISTERS OR THEIR REPRESENTATIVES
ATTENDING THE SIXTH ASEAN MINISTERS MEETING ON RURAL
DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ERADICATION**

1. **H.E. Pehin Orang Kaya Setia Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Ahmad bin Hj. Jumat**
Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports
Brunei Darussalam
 2. **H.E. Mr. Chea Sophara**
Minister of Rural Development
Cambodia
 3. **H.E. Dr. Sujana Royat**
Deputy Coordinating Minister for People's Welfare and Coordination of Poverty Alleviation
Indonesia
 4. **H.E. Mr. Onneua Phommachan**
Minister to the Prime Minister's Office
President of the Lao National Leading Committee for Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (Lao NRDPE)
Lao PDR
 5. **H.E. Datuk Joseph Entulu Anak Belaun**
Deputy Minister for Rural and Regional Development
Malaysia
 6. **H.E. Colonel Tin Ngwe**
Deputy Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs
Myanmar
 7. **H.E. Mr. Domingo F. Panganiban**
Secretary/Lead Convenor, National Anti-Poverty Commission
The Philippines
 8. **H.E. Mrs. Yu-Foo Yee Shoon**
Minister of State for Community Development, Youth and Sports
Singapore
 9. **H.E. Mr. Issara Somchai**
Minister of Social Development and Human Security
Thailand
 10. **H.E. Dr. Cao Duc Phat**
Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development
Viet Nam
 11. **H.E. Dr. SOEUNG Rathchavy**
Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN
for the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC)
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