

JOINT STATEMENT
5th ASEAN PLUS THREE HEALTH MINISTERS MEETING
6 July 2012, Phuket, Thailand

1. WE, the Ministers of Health of ASEAN Member States, representing Brunei Darussalam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand, the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, The People's Republic of China, Japan, and the Republic of Korea, convened the 5th ASEAN Plus Three Health Ministers Meeting on 6 July 2012 in Phuket, Thailand, in the spirit of unity and our ultimate goal to achieve good health for all ASEAN Plus Three citizens. We discuss progress in implementing joint activities in the health sector, especially the topic of Universal Health Coverage, share our concerns and express our commitment to strengthen our collaboration.

2. We confirm that our collaboration shall align with the "ASEAN Strategic Framework on Health Development (2010-2015)", endorsed by the 10th AHMM) with specific focus on collaborative areas that include Emerging Infectious Diseases, Pandemic Preparedness and Response, and Traditional Medicine as identified by the 1st ASEAN Plus Three SOMHD held in July 2011, in Nay Pyi Taw, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. We welcome any additional collaboration agreed in future meetings.

3. We recognise the significant and concrete roles played by the Universal Health Coverage (UHC) on poverty reduction and universal access to essential health services to support the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals. We commit to collectively accelerate the progress towards UHC in all countries by tasking the ASEAN Plus Three SOMHD to discuss the formation of an ASEAN Plus Three network on UHC. We agree to share and collectively build up the national and regional capacity to assess and manage the equitable and efficient health systems to support UHC. We concur and will collectively move the issue of UHC to be discussed and committed at the highest

regional and global development forum, including the ASEAN Plus Three Summit, and the United Nations General Assembly.

4. We express deep concerns on the increasing unhealthy lifestyle and risk behaviours, which eventually lead to the rapidly increasing chronic non-communicable diseases. We are fully aware that these risk behaviours relate closely to the Social Determinants of Health (SDH) and need to be tackled through Health in All Policies (HiAP) movements. We will collectively advocate, facilitate and implement more social and economic interventions to halt and reverse the increasing trend on tobacco use, harmful use of alcohol and unhealthy diet, as well as sedentary life style. We commit to implement the Political Declaration of the High-level Meeting of the United Nations General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases (A/RES/66/2) based on the targets set by the World Health Organization (WHO).

5. We note the progress made in ASEAN Plus Three collaborations in the areas of traditional medicine and maternal and child health. We also note the progress made in the areas of Communicable and Emerging Infectious Diseases such as the initiatives on Field Epidemiology Training Network (FETN), Risk Communication, Partnership Laboratories, Animal Health and Human Health Collaboration, specific disease interventions including malaria, rabies and dengue. We appreciate and strongly support the cross-sectoral work for health development. We strongly support the newly-established ASEAN Plus Three FETN. We support the effort and commit to cooperate in multi-country studies, joint outbreaks investigation, contain and control outbreaks of diseases of regional significance such as dengue, severe hand foot mouth disease, and anti-microbial drug resistance. We commit to achieve and maintain core-competency as stipulated by the International Health Regulations (IHR) not later than 2014.

6. We acknowledge the efforts made by the ASEAN Plus Three Senior Officials Meeting on Health Development (ASEAN Plus Three SOMHD) in convening the first two consecutive Meetings. We strongly urge them in maximising the avenue of the ASEAN Plus Three SOMHD to strengthen current collaborations. We task the ASEAN Plus Three SOMHD to explore models of technical cooperation such as identifying

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and the matching of health priorities between ASEAN and Plus Three, including seeking opportunities from Plus Three and other sources for technical support. Also we subscribe to monitoring the progress of these identified collaborative areas and identifying new areas of working together.

7. We recognise the contribution by, and commit to collaborate closely with development partners, especially the World Health Organization, the development banks, bilateral development partners, civil society organisations and private sectors.

We look forward to further exchanges of views and joint collaboration in health development at our next meeting in the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam in 2014.
