

**JOINT STATEMENT  
of the Meeting of ASEAN-Russia Culture Ministers**

**19 May 2016, Sochi**

We, Ministers responsible for Culture and Arts of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (hereinafter referred to as ASEAN), namely 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, and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, and the Minister of Culture of the Russian Federation, held our first meeting on 19 May 2016 on the sidelines of the ASEAN-Russia Commemorative Summit to mark the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of ASEAN-Russia dialogue partnership in Sochi, Russian Federation, and identified priority areas of ASEAN-Russia cooperation in the field of culture.

We have noted that ASEAN and the Russian Federation have vigorously worked to establish mutually beneficial cultural cooperation and proceed with practical implementation of joint projects, in furtherance of the Agreement on Cultural Cooperation between the Governments of the Member States of ASEAN and the Government of the Russian Federation, adopted on 30 October 2010, in Ha Noi, Viet Nam.

We have welcomed the ASEAN-Russia Year of Culture in 2016, and the ASEAN-Russia Culture Festival, to be held on 19-20 May 2016 in Sochi. They strengthen the friendly relations between our countries and peoples, broaden ties in the field of culture and the arts, and foster a better understanding of our culture.

We have continued to support performances of the ASEAN-Russia Youth Symphony Orchestra, founded in 2011 on the occasion of the 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of ASEAN-Russia Dialogue Partnership.

Supporting the advancement of friendly relations between the ASEAN Member States and the Russian Federation in the field of culture and the arts, we have agreed to step up collaboration in that direction.

We have agreed to promote cooperation and exchanges in the fields of music, theatre, archives, libraries, museums, cultural heritage, dance, visual arts, film, copyright, folk-crafts, decorative and applied arts, circus and other artistic forms, subject to the national legislation, policies and international obligations of our respective countries.

We have agreed to cooperate on matters of protection, preservation, restoration and use of cultural heritage sites in order to expand interaction and share best practices in the protection and management of cultural heritage.

We have agreed to encourage development of cooperation in cinematography among national film agencies and organizations through movie screenings and mutual

participation in international film festivals in the ASEAN Member States and the Russian Federation.

Recognizing the richness and diversity of cultures and traditions in the ASEAN Member States and the Russian Federation, we have agreed to facilitate contacts in the field of folk culture and folk-crafts through mutually arranged exhibitions, festivals, traditional festivities and folk group performances.

We have taken note of the proposal to step up interaction in tourism and other forms of people-to-people contacts, fostering an atmosphere of friendship and mutual trust. We have expressed our satisfaction with the outcomes of implementing joint cooperative programs in this area, and welcomed the growth of tourist traffic between the ASEAN Member States and the Russian Federation.

We have agreed to continue ASEAN-Russia dialogue in the field of culture and the arts.

Adopted in the city of Sochi, the Russian Federation, on 19 May 2016.