

**Joint Press Statement of the 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ASEAN  
Directors-General of Immigration Department and Heads of  
Consular Affairs Divisions of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs  
(18<sup>th</sup> DGICM)**

**2<sup>nd</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2014**

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, BRUNEI DARUSSALAM**

1. The 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting of The ASEAN Directors-General of Immigration Departments and Heads of Consular Affairs Divisions of The Ministries of Foreign Affairs (18<sup>th</sup> DGICM) was convened in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam, on 2-3 September 2014. The Meeting was chaired by Mr Azmi bin Haji Hafneh, Acting Director of Immigration and National Registration, Brunei Darussalam and was attended by the Directors-General of Immigration and Heads of Consular Affairs Divisions of Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the ASEAN Member States, and the representatives of the ASEAN Secretariat.
  
2. Guest of Honour, The Honorable Pehin Udana Khatib Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Badaruddin bin Pengarah Dato Paduka Awang Haji Othman, Minister of Home Affairs, officially graced the Opening Ceremony of the 18<sup>th</sup> DGICM.
  
3. The meeting is an annual gathering of ASEAN Immigration Departments and the Consular Affairs Divisions of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs to share valuable insights and experiences over issues of common interest and concerns in the progression of realising the ASEAN Community goals.

4. The Meeting commended the continuous efforts of and commitment by the ASEAN Member States in addressing irregular movement of people, illegal migration, trafficking in persons and labour trafficking, and encouraged enhanced collaboration in these areas.
5. The Meeting welcomed the ratification by Myanmar and Brunei Darussalam of the ASEAN Framework Agreement on Visa Exemption for ASEAN Nationals on 16 November 2013 and 15 May 2014, respectively.
6. The Meeting took note of the recommendations of the Regional Workshop on ASEAN Common Visa held in Jakarta on 30 September to 1 October 2013 where the workshop agreed that the concept of an ASEAN Common Visa would require the study of the various legal, operational and infrastructural pre-requisites. The Meeting agreed to elaborate the issues through an Ad-Hoc Working Group on ASEAN Common Visa.
7. As per the request from the Senior Economic Officials Meeting (SEOM), the meeting was briefed on SEOM's proposal regarding the ASEAN Business Travel Card (ABTC). The Meeting agreed that more discussions would be required.
8. The Heads of Consular Divisions of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs deliberated on the outstanding Guidelines for the Provision of Emergency Assistance by ASEAN Missions in Third countries to Nationals of ASEAN Member States in Crisis Situations. The meeting agreed to hold an Ad-Hoc Working Group meeting to discuss this matter further. The meeting was also briefed on the outcome of the ASEAN Regional Forum Workshop on Consular, Contingency Planning and Crisis Management held on 20-21 May 2014 in Bali, Indonesia.

9. The 10<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Intelligence Forum (AIF) took place on 1 September 2014, back to back with the 18<sup>th</sup> DGICM. The AIF accentuates bilateral and regional cooperation in the area of immigration, fraudulent visa and travel documents, border management, and modus operandi of transnational criminal networks in migrant smuggling and trafficking in persons. Cognizant of the fact that more challenges will be encountered upon the relaxing of regional borders after the establishment of the ASEAN Community in 2015, the AIF also made recommendations to ASEAN's Post-2015 Agenda and priority areas.
10. The Meeting welcomed the offer by Cambodia to host the 19<sup>th</sup> DGICM in Phnom Penh in 2015.
11. The Meeting was held in the traditional spirit of ASEAN and expressed gratitude to the warm hospitality accorded by the Government of Brunei Darussalam.