

**The 7<sup>th</sup> Informal ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on  
Science and Technology (AMMST-14)**

**2 December 2012, Jerudong, Brunei Darussalam**

**Chairman's Statement**

1. The 7<sup>th</sup> Informal ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Science and Technology (IAMMST-7) was held on 2 December 2012 in Jerudong, Brunei Darussalam. The Meeting was chaired by H.E. Pehin Orang Kaya Indera Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Suyoi Bin Hj Osman, Minister of Development, Brunei Darussalam, and attended by Science and Technology Ministers and Senior Officials from Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam. H.E. Alicia D. Bala, the new Deputy Secretary General of ASEAN and her staff were also in attendance.
2. The Meeting noted that four events were conducted prior to IAMMST-7, namely the Workshop on how to operationalize the Krabi Initiative (KI); the 21<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Advisory Body on the ASEAN Plan of Action on Science and Technology (ABAPAST); the 20<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Advisory Body on the ASEAN Science Fund (ABASF); and the 64<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ASEAN Committee on Science and Technology (COST).
3. The Ministers noted the proposal to restructure or reorganise COST through the establishment of clusters according to the thematic thrusts of the Krabi Initiative (KI). ASEAN Member States have expressed interest to host or co-host the clusters. The Ministers agreed, however, that the eight (8) KI thematic thrusts and the six (6) flagship programmes of COST must first be harmonised or aligned before appropriate clusters could be established. In this regard, the Ministers endorsed the proposal for a holistic study to be done by experts or group of experts to determine how the restructuring could be effectively implemented. The ABAPAST was tasked to develop the terms of reference for the study and expedite the completion of the study before the next Ministerial Meeting in 2013. The Ministers further agreed that pending the result of the study, the functions and reporting system of the COST's Sub-committees will remain unchanged.
4. The Ministers noted that the utilisation 80% of the earnings from the ASEAN Science Fund (ASF) placements as provided for in the ASF guidelines will not be enough to support science, technology and innovation (STI) activities. Thus, the Ministers welcomed the proposal for the establishment of an ASEAN Innovation Fund (AIF) to support the implementation of STI-driven projects. A certain amount could be transferred from the ASF to seed the AIF. Unlike the ASF, the principal sum and not only the interest earned by the AIF can be invested in projects for a rate of return (e.g. technology spin-off companies, revenue generating training programmes, etc.). Mechanisms shall be developed to encourage and enable the participation of the private sector, dialogue partners and international agencies to contribute to AIF. Such contributions will leverage

resources in COST and collaborative activities and projects with the potential for revenue generation.

5. While expressing support to the proposal, the Ministers noted that establishing new fund would require careful study and analysis, especially on how to sustain the fund. Thus, the Ministers requested the ABAPAST and ABASF to jointly develop the concept paper on the establishment of the AIF. Once the concept paper is developed, the ABASF shall take the lead in implementing the proposed actions in determining the feasibility of establishing the AIF.
6. The Ministers agreed to expand the mandate of the ABAPAST to cover the review of the performance of the various COST Sub-Committees and other relevant subsidiary bodies. In this regard, the ABAPAST was tasked to establish the appropriate performance review mechanism. Meanwhile, the Ministers also tasked the Sub-Committees to effect better coordination among themselves, with other ASEAN bodies outside of COST and with selected centres of excellence so as to address the implementation of the new APAST.
7. The Meeting noted the progress of the augmentation of the ASEAN Science Fund (ASF). The Ministers endorsed the proposal of the ABASF to amend one provision in the guidelines on the use of the ASEAN Science Fund (ASF). The amendment mandates the ABASF to identify, review and recommend projects for the consideration and approval of COST.
8. The Ministers welcomed the launching of the China-ASEAN Science and Technology (STEP) programme at the ASEAN-China Ministerial Meeting on Science and Technology on 21 September 2012 in Nanning, China. Recognising the serious intent of China to cooperate with ASEAN in S&T, the Ministers tasked COST to expedite the finalisation of the draft Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on ASEAN-China cooperation in science and technology.
9. The Ministers noted that the ASEAN-India Fund (AIF) shall henceforth be used to support people-to-people type of cooperation, including technology development activities while the ASEAN-India Science and Technology Development Fund (AISTDF) shall be used to support all other ASEAN-India S&T cooperation activities.
10. The Ministers noted with appreciation the various activities conducted in celebrating 2012 as the ASEAN-EU Year of Science, Technology and Innovation (YoSTI). These activities include i) Raising awareness of the ASEAN-EU cooperation in S&T: visit of ASEAN-EU science journalist to Singapore, March 2012; ii) ASEAN-EU scientific workshop at the Triple Helix Conference in Bandung, Indonesia, August 2012; and iii) Scientific session and workshop at International Techmart Conference in Ha Noi, Viet Nam, September 2012. To conclude the celebration of the ASEAN-EU YoSTI, a policy and study visit of ASEAN National COST Chairs shall be conducted in Brussels in December 2012.
11. The Ministers also noted the successful conduct of the following events:

- i. The International Triple Helix Conference (THC), 8-10 August 2012 in Bandung, Indonesia;
  - ii. ASEAN Indian Ocean Countries Training, 19-30 November 2012 in Bogor, Indonesia;
  - iii. ASEAN Workshop on Early Warning System (EWS) for Tsunami Disaster, 21-23 November 2012 in Banda Aceh, Indonesia;
  - iv. World Innovation Forum, 3-7 November 2012 in Kuala Lumpur Malaysia;
  - v. Biofuel Workshop on 16-18 November 2012 in Kuala Lumpur Malaysia.
12. The Ministers appreciated the early preparations for the conduct of the following events:
- i. The Workshop on Hand Foot and Mouth Disease to be hosted by Singapore in February or March 2013;
  - ii. The 13<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Food Conference to be hosted by Singapore on 9-11 September 2013; and
  - iii. The 9<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Science and Technology Week (ASTW-9) to be hosted by Indonesia in 2014
13. The Meeting welcomed the proposal of the Philippines to lead in the development of the concept paper in establishing scientific standards in ASEAN. The concept paper shall be presented and discussed at the next COST Meeting. The Meeting further noted the invitation for ASEAN Member States (AMS) to join Thailand in its new initiative on controlled-release fertilizers using nanotechnology. Noting the successful conduct of the World Innovation Forum Kuala Lumpur (WIFKL), the Meeting acknowledged the invitation of Malaysia for AMS to participate and share country experiences on inclusive innovation especially on success stories on grassroots innovation in a special side-event in the next WIFKL which will be held in 2013.
14. The Meeting thanked the University of Brunei Darussalam (UBD) IBM Center for offering the use of the High Performance Computing (HPC) facilities of the centre for collaborative research in areas such as weather forecasting; climate crop modelling; energy conservation and efficiency; renewable energy; and hydrology. The Meeting further noted that UBD is offering graduate research scholarship (e.g. 2 years masters research and 3-year Post-doctoral research). Brunei Darussalam also invited AMS to participate in the following events to be hosted by the UBD-IBM Center:
- i. HPC Workshop on Healthcare & Biotechnology, 4-6 Feb 2013; and
  - ii. HPC Workshop on Climate & Oil & Gas Sectors 7 – 9 Feb 2013
15. The Meeting noted that the 65<sup>th</sup> Meeting of COST, meetings with Dialogue Partners and meetings of COST subsidiary bodies shall be held in Clark, Philippines in 20-23 May 2013.

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