

**JOINT STATEMENT BY THE ASEAN TOURISM MINISTERS  
ON THE AFTERMATH OF EARTHQUAKE AND  
SUPER TYPHOON IN THE PHILIPPINES  
19 January 2014, Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia**

During the 17th Meeting of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) Tourism Ministers in Kuching, Malaysia on 19 January 2014, the Tourism Ministers expressed the following in response to the aftermath of the 7.2 magnitude earthquake and super typhoon Haiyan which hit the Philippines on 15 October and 08 November 2013, respectively:

1. Deepest sorrow and sympathy for the loss of lives and properties brought by the calamities;
2. Profound support to the Philippine Government for the rebuilding and recovery efforts, most especially in bringing back the enthusiasm of international travelers and the global travel trade to visit the Philippines;
3. Acknowledge the assistance extended by the international tourism organizations led by the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), and supported by the World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC), Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA), and the ASEAN Dialogue Partners in helping the affected victims;
4. Call on the tourism industry stakeholders to strengthen their resolve to make tourism a vital vehicle in providing a long-term and sustainable contribution to the recovery and rebuilding efforts; and
5. Inform the ASEAN Leaders that the Philippines has moved swiftly towards the rehabilitation and is bringing back normalcy in the affected areas.

On the longer term, the Tourism Ministers agreed to pursue the following:

1. Encourage the immediate implementation of the Framework, Approaches, Parameters, and Measures on Climate Change and Tourism in the ASEAN, which was adopted at the 17th Meeting of the ASEAN Tourism Ministers on 19 January 2014;
2. Support the enhancement of crisis communications, management, and networking among member countries in order to effect timely and appropriate responses; and
3. Reiterate their commitment in strengthening mutual cooperation to maintain travel and tourism confidence through all possible ways.

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