

**THE THIRTEENTH MEETING OF ASEAN PLUS THREE (CHINA, JAPAN
AND REPUBLIC OF KOREA) TOURISM MINISTERS
(13th M-ATM+3)**

20 January 2014, Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia

JOINT MEDIA STATEMENT

1. The Thirteenth Meeting of the ASEAN Plus Three (China, Japan and the Republic of Korea) Tourism Ministers was held on 20 January 2014 in Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia, in conjunction with the ASEAN Tourism Forum (ATF) 2014 and the Seventeenth Meeting of ASEAN Tourism Ministers (M-ATM). The Meeting was preceded by the ASEAN Plus Three (APT) NTOs Meeting held on 18 January 2014.
2. The Meeting was jointly co-chaired by H.E. Dato' Seri Mohamed Nazri bin Abdul Aziz, Minister of Tourism and Culture of Malaysia, H.E. Mr. Zhifa Wang, Vice-Chairman of China National Tourism Administration, H.E. Mr. Tsuyoshi Takagi, Senior Vice-Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, Japan and H.E. Dr. Hyunjae CHO, 1st Vice-Minister of Culture, Sports and Tourism, Rep. of Korea.
3. The Ministers were pleased to acknowledge the growth of international visitor arrivals to the ASEAN Plus Three region in 2013, where there were 230 million arrivals attributing to the increase of 4.37% as compared to 2012. Noting the important potential of intra-regional visitor arrivals, the Ministers shared the view to further strengthen joint tourism promotion collaboration in line with the APT Tourism Cooperation Work Plan 2013-2017.
4. The Ministers noted the implementation progress of the APT Tourism Cooperation Work Plan 2013-2017 covering quality tourism, skills development, joint tourism marketing and promotion, the cruise tourism, and tourism crisis communications, through the establishment of e-Tourism Working Group. Recognising that the APT Tourism Cooperation Work Plan would further promote linkages and strengthen cooperation among National Tourism Organisations, the Ministers requested country coordinators to prepare the detailed plans of respective measures.
5. The Ministers welcomed the outcomes of the 11th East Asia Forum held on 20-22 August 2013 in Kyoto, Japan, under the theme "Enhancing People-to-People Connectivity: Focusing on Tourism Cooperation", which discussed cooperation on tourism resources, promotion of intra-regional tourism and tourism facilitation. Noting the importance of air connectivity amongst APT countries, the Ministers welcomed the progress of aviation collaboration between ASEAN and China, Japan and ROK, particularly with the recent conclusion of negotiations on the exchange of 5th freedom air traffic rights between ASEAN Member States and China; the agreement between ASEAN and Japan to look into concluding a regional air services agreement; and the discussion between ASEAN and ROK to establish the ASEAN-ROK Air Transport Agreement.
6. Recognising the important role played by the ASEAN-China Centre, ASEAN-Japan Centre and ASEAN-Korea Centre in promoting, among others, tourism and cultural exchanges between ASEAN and the Plus Three countries, the Ministers welcomed the

suggestion for the Centres to exchange ideas and experiences in order to consolidate cooperative projects.

7. The ASEAN Tourism Ministers expressed appreciation to China for the provision of complimentary booths at China International Travel Mart (CITM) 2013, and the development of ASEAN Tourism documentaries of “Taste Southeast Asia” and “Discovery Southeast Asia” aired on CCTV.

8. The ASEAN Tourism Ministers expressed their appreciation to Japan for the support in the implementation of various ASEAN-Japan tourism projects and activities in 2013 for human resources development and promotion of travel to the ASEAN region through the ASEAN-Japan Centre, including the ASEAN Local Culinary in ASEAN Festival 2013 in Yokohama on 5-6 October 2013, and ASEAN PR activities.

9. The ASEAN Tourism Ministers expressed their appreciation to ROK for its support to the development of ASEAN Tourism through several promotional activities and capacity building such as ASEAN Tourism HRD programme (June – August 2013), Korean Language Training Course, and participation at Korea World Travel Fair 2013 (30 May – 2 June 2013) in Seoul.

10. The Ministers expressed their sincere appreciation to the Government and People of Malaysia for the warm hospitality accorded to all delegations attending the ATF 2014 and for the excellent arrangements made for the Meetings.

LIST OF MINISTERS

The Meeting was attended by:

- (i) H.E. Pehin Dato Yahya, Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Brunei Darussalam;
- (ii) H.E. Dr. Thong Khon, Minister of Tourism, Cambodia;
- (iii) H.E. Mr. Zhifa Wang, Vice Chairman of China National Tourism Administration;
- (iv) H.E. Dr. Mari Elka Pangestu, Minister of Tourism and Creative Economy, Indonesia;
- (v) H.E. Mr. Tsuyoshi Takagi, Senior Vice-Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, Japan;
- (vi) H.E. Dr. Hyunjae CHO, 1st Vice-Minister of Culture, Sports and Tourism, Rep. of Korea;
- (vii) H.E. Mr. Chaleune Warinthrasak, Vice Minister of Information, Culture and Tourism, Lao PDR;
- (viii) H.E. Dato’ Seri Mohamed Nazri bin Abdul Aziz, Minister of Tourism and Culture, Malaysia;
- (ix) H.E. Mr. Htay Aung, Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism, Myanmar;
- (x) H.E. Mr. Ramon R. Jimenez, Jr. Secretary of Tourism, Philippines;
- (xi) Mr. Lionel Yeo, Chief Executive, Singapore Tourism Board, representing H.E. Mr. S. Iswaran, Second Minister for Trade and Industry, Singapore;
- (xii) H.E. Mr. Sombat Kuruphan, Vice Minister for Tourism and Sports, Thailand;

- (xiii) H.E. Mr. Ho Anh Tuan, Deputy Minister of Culture, Sports, and Tourism of Viet Nam;
and
- (xiv) Mr. Tran Dong Phuong, Director, Finance, Industry and Infrastructure Directorate,
representing H.E. Mr. Le Luong Minh, Secretary-General of ASEAN.
