

Vientiane Declaration on Sports Cooperation in ASEAN

WE, the Ministers responsible for Sports 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:

HAVING gathered in Vientiane on 5 December 2013, for the Second ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Sports (2nd AMMS);

RECALLING the mandate given by the Leaders at the 19th ASEAN Summit to enhance cooperation in sports and sports-related activities to promote healthier lifestyles among the citizens of ASEAN Member States, encourage more interaction among the peoples of ASEAN, as well as contributing to ASEAN integration and community building;

GUIDED by the decision of the Leaders at the 20th ASEAN Summit, who agreed on the new elements of the ASCC Blueprints on sports, together with its strategic objectives and proposed actions as well as its goal of contributing to the realization of an ASEAN Community that is people-oriented and socially responsible;

RECOGNISING that sports is one of the most effective instruments in bringing about friendship, development, peace and integration through greater interaction and understanding among the ASEAN peoples;

ACKNOWLEDGING the importance of sports in nurturing the youth of ASEAN as the region's future asset, particularly by recognizing their role in sports leadership;

DO HEREBY DECLARE THAT WE:

AGREE that cooperation in sports has to be strengthened in realising the vision of an ASEAN Community, to forge a common regional identity and build a caring and sharing society, with the ultimate goal of achieving unity and solidarity among all nations and peoples of ASEAN;

FURTHER AGREE that all stakeholders including other relevant ministerial bodies, the private sectors and non-governmental organisations should be engaged fully so as to realize the aforesaid vision;

REMAIN COMMITTED to promote Sports as a tool to raise public awareness of ASEAN; through regional sports activities and events and sharing of best practices and expertise including the establishment of an ASEAN Football League and mechanism to implement and promote ASEAN Sports Volunteerism;

CONTINUE to explore and consult relevant national bodies and stakeholders on ASEAN's bid for possible hosting of the FIFA World Cup;

WELCOME the resolution from the ASEAN Sports for All Conference which was held on 30th to 31st October 2013 in Putrajaya, Malaysia;

AGREE to regularize the conduct of the 'ASEAN Youth Sports Camp' which was first hosted by Brunei Darussalam from 25th to 29th November 2013 and brought together young talented athletes to participate in sport and cultural activities with the objectives of realising an ASEAN Community that is people-oriented and socially responsible which contribute towards enduring solidarity, peace and unity amongst all nations and people of Southeast Asia by 2015;

EMPHASIZE the promotion of healthy and active lifestyle among citizens of ASEAN Member States through a Sports-for-All policy and support the establishment of mechanisms to effectively mobilise resources, including the engagement of the private sector, the media and ASEAN Dialogue Partners, to support these initiatives;

STRIVE to strengthen cooperation in sport R&D and Sports-related activities through the conduct of training and/or exchange programmes; by exploring possible cooperation and support from relevant stakeholders towards establishing common policies in sports in ASEAN;

ENDEAVOUR to promote community-based, non-discriminatory, affordable, accessible programmes, sports and physical activities for all facilities including open space and suitable neighborhood and environmental conditions, for all ages and performance levels;

SUSTAIN the contribution of the ASEAN Sports Industry in enhancing the socio-economic development of ASEAN;

ENDEAVOUR to raise the level of performance of ASEAN athletes in the regional and international competitions and enhance the achievements of ASEAN in competitive sports;

FURTHER SUPPORT the establishment of support centers of excellence in sports training in ASEAN; including the development and implementation of the plan for the establishment of Training Centre for coaches and referees in ASEAN.

TASK the ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting in Sports (SOMS) to finalise the work plan on Sports to ensure the successful implementation of this Declaration and review its progress through appropriate instruments and actions with the support of ASEAN Member States.

ADOPT in Vientiane, Lao PDR, this Fifth Day of December in the year Two Thousand and Thirteen in a single original copy in the English language.

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