



## **CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT OF THE 16<sup>TH</sup> ASEAN PLUS THREE SUMMIT**

10 October 2013

Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam

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1. The 16<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Plus Three Summit, chaired by His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah, the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, was held on 10 October 2013 in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam. The Heads of State/Government of ASEAN Member States, the People's Republic of China, Japan, and the Republic of Korea (ROK) attended the Meeting.
2. We reviewed with satisfaction the progress and achievements of the ASEAN Plus Three cooperation and agreed to continue deepening and broadening the process, as guided by the Second Joint Statement on East Asia Cooperation and the ASEAN Plus Three Leaders' Joint Statement on the Commemoration of the 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the ASEAN Plus Three cooperation.
3. As ASEAN is embarking towards an ASEAN Community and an ASEAN Community's Post 2015 Vision, we acknowledged the need to deepen and enhance ASEAN's dialogue partnership and external relations.
4. We reaffirmed that the ASEAN Plus Three cooperation would serve as a main vehicle towards the long-term goal of building an East Asian community with ASEAN as the driving force. At the same time, we reiterated the importance of ASEAN's central role in the evolving regional architecture and recognised the mutually reinforcing and complementary roles of the ASEAN Plus Three and other regional processes such as the ASEAN Plus Ones, East Asia Summit (EAS), and ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) in the East Asian community building process.
5. The ASEAN Leaders also encouraged the Plus Three countries to continue to support the implementation of the Roadmap for an ASEAN Community (2009-2015) and contribute to the ASEAN Community Post-2015 Vision, as well as to the Bali Declaration on ASEAN Community in a Global Community of Nations (Bali Concord III) to bring the ASEAN Community platform on global issues into reality by 2022.
6. We adopted the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Work Plan (2013-2017) which included emerging priority areas and key measures to deepen cooperation. We looked forward to its timely and effective implementation over the next five years.
7. We noted with appreciation the replenishment of the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Fund and encouraged the utilisation of the fund to further implement

activities under the framework of the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Work Plan (2013-2017).

8. We reaffirmed the importance of the ASEAN Plus Three cooperation in maintaining peace, security, and stability, which are indispensable conditions for development in the East Asia region. In this regard, we agreed to further strengthen political-security cooperation by enhancing mutual understanding, confidence and stability, in order to deal with emerging challenges in both traditional and non-traditional security dimensions. In this connection, we welcomed the outcomes of the 6<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Plus Three Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (AMMTC+3), 3<sup>rd</sup> ASEAN Plus People's Republic of China Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (AMMTC+China) and 1<sup>st</sup> ASEAN Plus Japan Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (AMMTC+Japan) on 18 September 2013 in Vientiane, Lao PDR.

9. We welcomed the continuing growth of intra-regional trade in the East Asia region, with total trade figures amounting to US\$ 712 billion in 2012 compared to US\$ 678 billion in 2011. This marks an increase of 5.0% in total trade, despite the uncertainties in the global economy and financial markets. Similarly, total foreign direct investment (FDI) flows from the Plus Three Countries recorded an increase of 6.6% in 2012, amounting to US\$ 46.7 billion, and accounting for 43.6% of the total FDI flows into ASEAN. We agreed to continue strengthening regional cooperation in the areas of trade and investment facilitation, and Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) development. In this connection, we reiterated the importance of strengthening and deepening existing ASEAN Plus One Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) with the Plus Three countries and urged business communities to take full advantage of these FTAs.

10. We welcomed the progress of negotiations on the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) which would recognise ASEAN Centrality in the emerging regional economic architecture and the interests of the ASEAN Plus Three countries in supporting and contributing to economic integration, equitable economic development, and strengthening economic cooperation among the participating countries. In this regard, we looked forward to its timely conclusion by the end of 2015.

11. We welcomed the achievements of the 16<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Plus Three Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors' Meeting held in Delhi, India on 3 May 2013, including the finalisation of amendments to the Chiang Mai Initiative Multilateralisation Agreement, consensus on the draft Agreement to transform the ASEAN Plus Three Macroeconomic Research Office to an international organisation, endorsement of the work plan for the implementation of the Asian Bond Markets Initiative New Roadmap+ and the inauguration of the guarantee transaction of the Credit Guarantee and Investment Facility.

12. We recognised the need to balance energy security with economic competitiveness and environmental sustainability and acknowledged the importance of stakeholder cooperation to study possible energy options for the region including,

among others, civilian nuclear energy, oil stockpiling, and clean coal technologies, taking into account each country's national policy and circumstances, and to look into new energy cooperation areas such as the use of clean and environmentally-friendly technologies. In this connection, we welcomed the outcomes of the 10<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Plus Three Ministers on Energy Meeting in Bali, Indonesia on 25 September 2013.

13. We reaffirmed the important role of the ASEAN Plus Three Emergency Rice Reserve (APTERR) to serve as a permanent mechanism in enhancing food security in the region and at the same time, we commended its initiatives in response to acute food emergencies. We acknowledged the good progress on the implementation of the APTERR Agreement, including ratification by all APTERR parties, establishment of the APTERR Council, and launching of the APTERR Secretariat. In this relation, we welcomed the outcomes of the 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry Plus Three (AMAF+3) held on 27 September 2013 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

14. We reiterated the need to further strengthen regional cooperation in the area of disaster management and reaffirmed our commitment to create a disaster resilient society in the region. We supported the full operationalisation of the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre) and the implementation of the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) Work Programme (2010-2015). In this regard, we welcomed the adoption of the ASEAN Declaration on Enhancing Cooperation in Disaster Management at the 23<sup>rd</sup> ASEAN Summit in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam on 9 October 2013.

15. We emphasised the importance of enhancing cooperation to address the issue of climate change. In this connection, we expressed our commitment to work closely together to ensure the successful outcome of the 19<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties (COP19) to the UNFCCC and the 9<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties (CMP9) to the Kyoto Protocol to be held in Warsaw, Poland on 11-22 November 2013. We recognised the importance of water resources preservation and management for sustainable development. We agreed on the need for enhanced cooperation in this area with a view to preventing floods and droughts in the region which could affect agricultural productivity and regional food security.

16. We recognised the increasing need to facilitate closer cooperation on environment and sustainable development hence welcomed the convening of the 12<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Plus Three Environment Ministers' Meeting held in Surabaya, Indonesia on 26 September 2013. We also welcomed the proposal to hold the 2<sup>nd</sup> ASEAN Plus Three Youth Environment Forum with the theme "Youth and Sustainability" in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam in November 2013.

17. We noted implementation of the ASEAN Plus Three Plan of Action on Education (2010-2017) which would help strengthen education cooperation and human resource development in East Asia region. We also reaffirmed the need to promote quality assurance in higher education amongst the ASEAN Plus Three countries and welcomed

the convening of meetings to promote mobility of higher education and quality education assurance of higher education among ASEAN Plus Three countries in Tokyo, Japan on 30 September to 1 October in 2013. We took note that the UNESCO World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development would be held in Japan in November 2014.

18. We reaffirmed our support to strengthen cooperation in addressing threats of disease outbreaks in the East Asia region and agreed to focus health cooperation on areas such as Emerging Infectious Diseases, Pandemic Preparedness and Response and Traditional Medicines in line with the ASEAN Strategic Framework on Health Development (2010-2015). At the same time, we shared the intention to cooperate on the increasing burden of non-communicable diseases and work towards the achievement of Universal Health Coverage.

19. We looked forward to the signing of the Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC) on ASEAN Plus Three Tourism Cooperation in early 2014 which would be one of the key instruments to strengthen cooperation amongst the ASEAN Plus Three countries in the tourism sector.

20. We recognised the need to raise awareness of ASEAN and to promote mutual understanding amongst the people of ASEAN Plus Three countries hence agree to strengthen cooperation in the information sector. We also look forward to the successful implementation of the Work Plan on Enhancing ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Through Information and Media (2012-2017).

21. We noted the convening of the 4<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Plus Three Ministerial Meeting on Youth held in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam on 23 May 2013 and the readiness of the Plus Three countries to continue supporting and cooperating with ASEAN on youth programmes. We noted that new initiatives and programmes from the Plus Three countries offered more opportunities for further interaction and exchange of technical know-how between the young people of ASEAN Plus Three countries.

22. We recognised the importance of realising the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) and welcomed the support of all Dialogue Partners, especially the Plus Three countries, as well as external parties and the private sector, in the implementation of the MPAC. We also looked forward to the implementation of the Leaders' Statement on ASEAN Plus Three Partnership on Connectivity which would harness the extensive mechanisms of the ASEAN Plus Three cooperation to further enhance regional connectivity.

23. We took note of the adoption of the Concept Paper on the Follow-Ups to the East Asia Vision Group II (EAVG II), by the 14<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Plus Three Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam on 30 June 2013. The Concept Paper outlined a comprehensive assessment to be taken in three phases from November 2013 to October 2014, and in this regard, we looked forward to the final report on the follow-ups to the EAVG II Report at the 17<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Plus Three Summit in Myanmar in 2014.

24. We acknowledged the important role played by the ASEAN-China Centre, ASEAN-Japan Centre, and ASEAN-ROK Centre, in promoting trade, investment, tourism, and cultural exchanges between ASEAN and the Plus Three countries. In this connection, we welcomed the suggestion for the Centres to exchange ideas and experiences in order to consolidate cooperative projects in ASEAN. We further urged for the full utilisation of the Centres in promoting trade and investment under the larger context of the ASEAN Plus Three cooperation.

25. We welcomed the 11<sup>th</sup> East Asia Forum held in Kyoto, Japan on 20-22 August 2013 under the theme “Enhancing People-to-People Connectivity: Focusing on Tourism Cooperation”.

26. We noted that the 11<sup>th</sup> Network of East Asia Think-Tanks (NEAT) Annual Conference was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 27 August 2013. We welcomed the greater involvement of the NEAT within the framework of the ASEAN Plus Three cooperation and in this regard, we encouraged our officials to look into NEAT’s policy recommendations.

27. We welcomed the outcomes of the G20 Summit held in St. Petersburg, Russia on 5-6 September 2013. We reiterated our support for the Chairman of ASEAN to continue to be invited to participate in the G-20 Summits on a regular basis.

28. We stressed the need to maintain peace, security and stability in the Korean Peninsula, and encouraged peaceful dialogue by creating a positive atmosphere for the resumption of the Six-Party Talks. We reaffirmed the importance of fully complying with the obligations in all relevant United Nations Security Council (UNSC) Resolutions and commitments under the 19 September 2005 Joint Statement of the Six-Party Talks. We reiterated our support for all efforts to bring about the denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula in a peaceful manner and reaffirmed our commitments to fully implement the relevant UNSC Resolutions. We also emphasised the importance of addressing humanitarian concerns of the international community. We welcomed the Trust-building Process on the Korean Peninsula and the Initiative for Peace and Cooperation in Northeast Asia proposed by the President of the Republic of Korea.

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