



**THE EIGHTEENTH AEM–METI CONSULTATIONS
30 August 2012, Siem Reap, Cambodia**

JOINT MEDIA STATEMENT

1. The Eighteenth Consultations between the ASEAN Economic Ministers (AEM) and the Minister for Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) of Japan were held on 30 August 2012 in Siem Reap, Cambodia. The Consultations were co-chaired by H.E. Cham Prasidh, Senior Minister and Minister of Commerce, Cambodia and H.E. Yukio Edano, Minister for Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan.

2. The Ministers were pleased that trade between ASEAN and Japan continued on an upward trend as total trade grew by 32.3% from US\$206.6 billion in 2010 to US\$273.3 billion in 2011. Japan also moved up from being ASEAN's third largest export destination in 2010 to the region's top export destination in 2011. ASEAN's exports to Japan increased by 43.3% amounting to US\$147.4 billion while imports from Japan grew by 21.4% totalling US\$125.9 billion. Japan maintained its position as ASEAN's second largest trading partner after China.

3. The Ministers noted the increase in foreign direct investment inflows from Japan to ASEAN, which grew by 39.0% from US\$11.0 billion in 2010 to US\$15.3 billion in 2011. Japan remained as an important source of FDI with a share of 17.1% of total inward investments to ASEAN in 2011. Japan stepped up one notch from third to become second largest source of FDI for ASEAN.

ASEAN-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership (AJCEP) Agreement

4. The Ministers welcomed the steady progress in the areas of economic cooperation and standard and conformance in the AJCEP, and reaffirmed their commitment to further promote trade and investment between ASEAN and Japan through the implementation of AJCEP. On economic cooperation, the Ministers particularly welcomed the endorsement of the AJCEP Project Management Guidelines by the AJCEP Joint Committee in December 2011, which have, since then, resulted in the endorsement ten (10) project proposals currently under various stages of the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF)'s approval process.

5. The Ministers emphasized the importance of continuing the negotiations for the expanded Chapters on Trade in Services and Investment under the AJCEP to further deepen economic integration between ASEAN and Japan, and encouraged officials to continue the negotiation for addressing the outstanding issues at the AJCEP Joint Committee Meeting.

Private Sector Engagement

6. The Ministers were pleased with the results of the dialogue between FJCCIA and the Secretary-General of ASEAN held on 21 July 2012 in Bangkok, Thailand. The Ministers agreed that the improvement of business environment in ASEAN would be mutually beneficial for ASEAN and Japan and decided to consider possible measures to respond to FJCCIA's requests in an effort to realise AEC by 2015.

7. The Ministers underlined the importance of the expansion of product coverage and membership of the WTO Information Technology Agreement (ITA) for global and regional economic development and are committed to strengthen their engagement in order to swiftly and successfully conclude the negotiation.

ASEAN Roadshow to Japan

8. The Ministers appreciated the successful ASEAN Road Show to Japan on 25-28 April 2012, which helped to promote business relations and economic cooperation between ASEAN and Japan.

ASEAN-Japan 10-year Strategic Economic Cooperation Roadmap

9. The Ministers endorsed the ASEAN-Japan 10-year Strategic Economic Cooperation Roadmap, which aimed to promote strategic partnership in the areas of improvement of business environment, trade and investment facilitation and liberalisation, infrastructure development, connectivity, human resources development and enhancement and coordination on domestic policies and regulations, among others. The Ministers shared the conviction that the implementation of activities listed in the Roadmap would elevate the partnership between ASEAN and Japan to a new level, in which both parties grow together with further integrated markets and production networks, and help achieve the objectives including doubling trade and investment flows between ASEAN and Japan by 2022.

10. The Ministers also emphasized the importance of broadening and deepening the relationship between ASEAN and Japan, in line with the three pillars below as specified in the Roadmap:

(i) Integration of Markets in ASEAN and the East Asian Region in a Mutually Beneficial Manner

11. The Ministers agreed to cooperate in the protection of Intellectual Property Rights through the Memorandum of Cooperation on Industrial Property and the Action Plan agreed at the ASEAN-Japan Heads of Intellectual Property Offices Meeting on 11 July 2012. The Ministers welcomed the progress of cooperation on chemicals by AMEICC Working Group on Chemical Industry (WG-CI), specifically the decision to develop a prototype database with willing ASEAN Member States and Japan, and appreciate further efforts to enhance economic integration through AMEICC WG-CI.

(ii) Strengthening Industrial Cooperation towards More Advanced Industrial Structures

12. The Ministers reaffirmed the importance of capacity building of human resources for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and welcomed Japan's initiatives for introducing a "Comprehensive Higher Professional Education System (Multiversity)" and facilitating networking among SMEs through the Asia Professional Education Network (APEN) in interested ASEAN Member States.

13. The Ministers welcomed the progress of the East Asia Smart Community Initiative (EA-SCI) and confirmed that ASEAN and Japan keep cooperation to materialise smart community projects. The Ministers agreed to expand their collaboration in utilisation of satellite technology not only for the purpose of disaster management but also for establishing a disaster-resilient society with more advanced industrial structures in ASEAN Member States.

(iii) Improving Economic Growth and Standard of Living

14. The Ministers acknowledged the importance of realising Low Carbon Growth for sustainable economic growth of the region and their cooperation toward the Second Low Carbon Growth Partnership Dialogue, which will be co-chaired by Cambodia and Japan in 2013, and reaffirmed the necessity of cooperation in the area of human resource development, improvement of systems and institutions and possibility of establishing a Bilateral Offset Credit Mechanism/Joint Crediting Mechanism (BOCM/JCM).

AEM-METI Economic and Industrial Cooperation Committee (AMEICC)

15. The Ministers well-noted the progress of AMEICC working group activities, and especially welcomed the conclusion of its ASEAN Common Curriculum development programme for entrepreneurship education. The Ministers also reaffirmed the necessity of AMEICC to coordinate projects indicated in the "ASEAN-Japan 10-year Strategic Economic Cooperation Roadmap".



LIST OF MINISTERS

1. **Dato Lim Jock Hoi**, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Brunei Darussalam
2. **H.E. Cham Prasidh**, Senior Minister and Minister of Commerce, Cambodia
3. **Mr. Iman Pambagyo**, Director-General of International Trade Cooperation, Ministry of Trade, Indonesia
4. **H.E. Yukio Edano**, Minister for Economy, Trade and Industry, Japan
5. **H.E. Nam Viyaketh**, Minister of Industry and Commerce, Lao PDR
6. **Mr. Mohd Ridzal Sheriff**, Deputy Secretary General (Trade), Ministry of International Trade and Industry, Malaysia
7. **H.E. U Tin Naing Thein**, Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development, Myanmar
8. **H.E. Gregory L. Domingo**, Secretary of Trade and Industry, the Philippines
9. **H.E. Lim Hng Kiang**, Minister for Trade and Industry, Singapore
10. **H.E. Boonsong Teriyapirom**, Minister of Commerce, Thailand
11. **H.E. Nguyen Cam Tu**, Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade, Viet Nam
12. **H.E. Surin Pitsuwan**, Secretary-General of ASEAN