

Joint Media Statement

The Fourth Session of the ASEAN Community Statistical System (ACSS) Committee

14-16 October 2014, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar

Introduction

1. We, the ASEAN heads of statistical offices and members of the ASEAN Community Statistical System (ACSS) Committee, convened this fourth session in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar on 14-16 October 2014 with greater confidence in realising the goals formulated in 2009 of becoming a forward looking and reliable provider of relevant, timely and comparable statistics in support of the ASEAN Community by 2015. We further commit to strive towards a sustainable statistical development in ASEAN beyond 2015.
2. Mr. San Myint, Acting Director General of the Central Statistical Organisation (CSO) of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar presided over the Meeting. Dr. Abdul Rahman Hasan, Chief Statistician of the Department of Statistics, Malaysia, co-chaired the Meeting.

Deepening Regional Cooperation in Statistics in ASEAN

3. We are pleased to announce the endorsement of the ASEAN Framework of Cooperation in Statistics (AFCS, Revised Version.1) and the adoption of the ACSS Strategic Plan 2016-2020 as enabling mechanisms to accelerate ACSS' response to statistical requirements arising from the ASEAN Leaders' initiatives toward an ASEAN Community by 2015. The AFCS and the Plan provide a clear direction on the targets and priorities to strengthen national coordination among data producers and promote wider practice of the ASEAN-help-ASEAN cooperation in statistics.
4. We look forward to greater support and investment in statistics from our Governments and Development Partners in ensuring the effective implementation of the Plan. We are heartened by the ASEAN Economic Ministers Meeting appreciation of the progress in developing the Plan, and remain confident of the recognition and support by the relevant ASEAN higher bodies.

Enhancing Dissemination and Communication of Statistics

5. We are encouraged by the pace of progress in dissemination and communication of statistics through increased availability of and accessibility to ASEAN statistics. We endeavour to continue the simultaneous issuance of press releases to broaden awareness and visibility of ASEAN statistics. We are pleased to note the release of two new statistical publications, namely the ASEAN Community in Figures -Special Edition and the ASEAN Yearbook on International Merchandise Trade Statistics, prior to the ASEAN Summit.

Broadening the Scope of Statistical Support and Cooperation

6. Cognizant of the statistical developments in the international front as well as the increased demand for statistics on ASEAN integration monitoring, we endeavour to meet the statistical priorities arising from the finalisation of the ASEAN Community Post-2015 agenda. We support the inclusion of statistics on ASEAN connectivity in the Broad Framework for the Sustainable Development of ASEAN Statistics, the effective implementation of the System of National Accounts Forum, and the development of groundwork for the new statistical priorities.

Strengthening Partnership for Sustained Capacity Building

7. We welcome the commencement of the four-year EU-ASEAN Capacity Building Programme for Monitoring Integration Progress and Statistics (COMPASS) in June 2014. COMPASS aims to improve the quality of statistics and to facilitate the monitoring of ASEAN community integration. We also look forward to the Programme's focused support to Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Viet Nam.
8. We are grateful for the continued support from international organisations and other development partners in our pursuit of excellence of ASEAN statistical products and services.

Hosting of the Meeting

9. Our sincere appreciation to the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, through the Central Statistical Organisation of the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development, for the strong leadership, excellent arrangements and the warm hospitality extended to the participants of the Fourth Session of the ACSS Committee.
10. It is with much pleasure that we welcome the confirmation by the Department of Statistics, Malaysia to chair and host the Fifth Session of the ACSS Committee in Putrajaya in 2015.

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ASEAN Community Statistical System (ACSS) Committee

- 1. BRUNEI DARUSSALAM: Mr. Bahrum Haji Kadun**
- 2. KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA: Mdm. Hang Lina**
- 3. REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA: Dr. Suryamin**
- 4. LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC: Ms. Phonesaly Souksavath**
- 5. MALAYSIA: Datuk Dr. Abdul Rahman Hasan**
- 6. THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR: Mr. San Myint**
- 7. REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES: Dr. Lisa Grace S. Bersales**
- 8. REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE: Ms. Wong Wee Kim**
- 9. KINGDOM OF THAILAND: Ms. Wilailuck Chulewatanakul**
- 10. THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM: Dr. Nguyen Bich Lam**
- 11. ASEAN SECRETARIAT: Dr. Melanie Milo**

Nay Pyi Taw, 16 October 2014