

**5TH INFORMAL ASEAN MINISTERIAL MEETING
ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

07 - 08 July 2008
Manila, Philippines

CHAIRPERSON'S STATEMENT

1. The 5th Informal ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Science and Technology (S&T) was held on 07 July 2008 in Manila, Philippines and chaired by Secretary Estrella F. Alabastro, S&T Minister of the Philippines.
2. The Informal Meeting was attended by Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Viet Nam and the ASEAN Secretariat.
3. The Meeting had a productive exchange of views on regional and international issues such as energy crisis, food security, and the environment. The ASEAN Member States shared their experiences on the impact of these recent crises and mechanisms.
4. The importance of science and technology in addressing these global concerns was highlighted including the need to strengthen regional and national S&T capacities specifically human resource capabilities.
5. The Meeting also underscored the importance of addressing these global issues collectively and in synergy with other initiatives being undertaken by various ASEAN bodies. The ASEAN scientists must be able to work together on projects that will provide solutions to these global problems. In this regard, the ASEAN Secretariat was requested to explore possible modalities for its implementation. Likewise, the Committee on Science and Technology (COST) was requested to identify necessary S&T interventions for food and energy security, to begin with, in collaboration with concerned COST's Sub-committees and other ASEAN bodies.
6. Access to facilities or research laboratories in industry or private institutions was also identified as a strategy to facilitate research and technology development. A mechanism by which such resource could be tapped by ASEAN should likewise be developed.
7. The Secretary General of ASEAN briefed the Ministers on the ASEAN Charter that is expected to be ratified by ASEAN member countries in time for the ASEAN Summit on 18-19 December 2008 in Bangkok, Thailand. The new Charter endeavors to establish an ASEAN Community by 2015 built on three pillars namely, 1) Political and Security Community; 2) Economic Community; and 3) Socio-Cultural Community. The S&T sector, in view of its cross-cutting nature, will be expected to contribute to the realization of the three pillars.

8. The implications of the ASEAN Charter on how ASEAN bodies such as COST would operate were also discussed extensively.
9. The Meeting appreciated the ASEAN Secretariat's initiative to undertake a study on the state of S&T in ASEAN and to determine S&T capacities of Member States as well as identify possible technology niches for the region. Such a study would also come up with strategic approaches to ensure that S&T would be relevant to the realization of the ASEAN Community by 2015. In this regard, the ASEAN Secretariat, in coordination with the COST Chairperson, the Philippines, will develop a project proposal to be submitted to Japan seeking support from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).
10. The Meeting agreed that ASEAN shall continue to pursue S&T cooperation with Dialogue Partners attaching greater importance to areas that are consistent with the flagship programs identified in the ASEAN Plan of Action on S&T, namely. 1) disaster risk reduction, 2) alternative energy/biofuels, 3) functional foods, and 4) open source system/ICT.
11. The next Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Science and Technology shall be held in Singapore in September 2009. The Meeting will be preceded by the 57th Meeting of the ASEAN COST.

ASEAN-EU Informal Ministerial Meeting on S&T

12. The ASEAN S&T Ministers conducted an informal meeting with the European Union where they discussed challenges and issues of mutual interest and benefit such as S&T interventions in the area of energy, environment and climate change, food security and health.
13. To further seek ways on how to conduct cooperative activities in S&T between ASEAN and EU, the Ministers agreed to the recommendation of the ASEAN-EC Senior Officials who also met prior to the IAMMST, to launch a dialogue on S&T at the Senior Officials level and conduct regular consultations and participation to the coming COST meetings.
14. The Ministers supported the idea to convene dialogues between ASEAN and EC S&T Senior Officials' in conjunction with the 57th Meeting of ASEAN COST to be held in Indonesia in the first quarter of 2009.

ASEAN+ 3 Informal Ministerial Meeting on S&T

15. The ASEAN S&T Ministers also met with their counterparts from China, Japan and the Republic of Korea (ROK) (+3 countries) and discussed on-going and future activities between ASEAN and the Plus Three Countries. The +3 Countries committed to pursue cooperative activities in traditional medicine (China), open access databases (Japan), center for the gifted in science (ROK). New initiatives were put forward at the Meeting which

include China's proposal to establish the "10+3 Innovation Partnership" aiming to promote a closer connection between S&T and industries within the region. The Ministers tasked the Senior Officials to discuss the details of various initiatives at the 3rd COST+3 Meeting to be held in November 2008 at Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia.

16. The Ministers agreed to look into the possibility of sharing of laboratories among researchers for capacity building purposes.

Informal ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on S&T with Australia, China, India, Japan and ROK

17. The ASEAN S&T Ministers also conducted discussions with the S&T Ministers and representatives from the ASEAN Dialogue Partners namely Australia, China, India, Japan and ROK.

18. To further strengthen the cooperation between ASEAN and the six (6) Dialogue Partners, India, Australia and New Zealand were invited to participate in the existing activities under the ASEAN+3 cooperation particularly in the Open Access Database led by Japan. Japan and China also invited the Senior Officials from the sixteen countries to participate in the ASEAN-China Workshop on S&T Policy in Asia to be held in October 2008 in Kyoto, Japan and the ASEAN-China S&T Forum in 2009, respectively.

19. The Ministers recognized the lack of mechanism to follow-up the activities set forth by the Ministers since there is no Senior Officials Meeting to take care of the ministerial directives. Hence, in order to synergize efforts of the ASEAN Member States and the Dialogue Partners and move forward the cooperation, the Ministers agreed that the Dialogue Partners will designate its respective focal person with whom ASEAN could liaise with.

List of Ministers/Representatives

ASEAN Member Countries	
Brunei	H.E. Dr. HJ. MAT SUNY, Deputy Minister of Ministry of Development
Cambodia	H.E. IN MAY, Ambassador of Cambodia to the Republic of the Philippines
Indonesia	H.E. Prof. Dr. Carunia FIRDAUSY, Deputy Minister of State Ministry of Research and Technology
Lao PDR	H. E. Prof. Dr. Bountien PHISSAMAY, Minister to the Prime Minister's Office
Myanmar	H.E. U KYAW SOE, Deputy Minister of Science and Technology
Malaysia	H.E. Datuk Dr. Maximus Johnity ONGKILI, Minister of Science and Technology
Philippines	H.E. Dr. Estrella F. ALABASTRO, Minister of Science and Technology
Singapore	H.E. S. ISWARAN, Senior Minister of State for Trade and Industry
Thailand	H. E. Wutipong CHAISANG, Minister of Science and Technology
Vietnam	H.E. Le Dinh TIEN, Deputy Minister of Science and Technology
Dialogue Partners	
Australia	H.E. Rod SMITH, Australia Ambassador to the Philippines
China	H.E. SHANG Yong, Vice Minister of Science and Technology
EU	H.E. Jose Manuel Silva RODRIGUEZ, Director General of European Commission Research Directorate General
India	Dr. Y. P. KUMAR, Director for International Technology Cooperation, Department of Science and Technology
Japan	H.E. Fumio KISHIDA, Minister of State for Okinawa and Northern Territories Affairs Science and Technology Policy, Quality-of-Life Policy and Regulatory Reform, Japan Cabinet Office
ROK	H.E. Jong-Koo PARK, Vice Minister of Education, Science and Technology
ASEAN Secretariat	H.E. Dr. Surin PITSUWAN, Secretary-General of ASEAN