

JOINT STATEMENT OF THE NINTH ASEAN MINISTERIAL MEETING ON TRANSNATIONAL CRIME (9th AMMTC)

Vientiane, Lao PDR, 17 September 2013

1. We, the ASEAN Ministers overseeing the responsibilities of combating transnational crimes, gathered in Vientiane, Lao People's Democratic Republic, on 17 September 2013, to consolidate and further strengthen regional cooperation in combating transnational crimes. The Meeting was preceded by a Preparatory ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC) for the 9th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (hereinafter referred to as "9th AMMTC") held on 16 September 2013. The 9th AMMTC was chaired by Dr. Thongbanh Sengaphone, Minister of Public Security of the Lao People's Democratic Republic.
2. We welcomed the convening of two ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Drug Matters held consecutively on 31 August 2012 and 3 September 2013.
3. We took note of the outcomes of the 32nd and 33rd ASEAN Senior Officials on Drug Matters (ASOD) and looked forward to the successful implementation of ASOD Work Plan.
4. We also took note of the outcomes of the 16th and 17th Meeting of Directors-General of Immigration Departments and Heads of Consular Affairs Division of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs (DGICM) and encouraged the respective Senior Officials to strengthen regional collaboration on trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants.
5. We adopted the SOMTC Work Programme 2013-2015 and tasked the Voluntary Lead Shepherds to lead SOMTC to fulfil the respective areas of the Work Programme under their purview.

6. We took note that all ASEAN Member States had ratified the ASEAN Convention on Counter-Terrorism (ACCT) by 11th of January 2013. We tasked the SOMTC to implement the ASEAN Comprehensive Action Plan on Counter Terrorism (ACPoA on CT) to fulfil the ACCT.
7. We took note the report of the Chairman of the 33rd ASEAN Chiefs of Police Conference (ASEANAPOL Conference XXXIII).
8. We deliberated in depth and exchanged views during our Retreat on the progress on the implementation of the ASEAN Political-Security (APSC) Blueprint, and on ASEAN's possible future direction in combating transnational crime beyond 2015.
9. We tasked the Voluntary Lead Shepherds to implement the SOMTC Work Programme 2013-2015. We expressed our appreciation on the progress made by the SOMTC Working Group on Trafficking in Persons (WG on TIP) and further tasked the SOMTC to finalise the legally binding ASEAN Convention on Trafficking in Persons (ACTIP), and the Regional Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons (RPA) which will ensure the protection of our people against trafficking in persons. We welcomed SOMTC's decision on the creation of the new SOMTC Working Group on Cybercrime and looked forward to its meaningful deliberations.
10. We welcomed the convening of the 10th AMMTC in Malaysia in 2015.
11. We expressed our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the Government and people of the Lao People's Democratic Republic for their generous hospitality and excellent arrangements.