



**JOINT STATEMENT OF THE
NINTH ASEAN EDUCATION MINISTERS MEETING (9th ASED)**

25 May 2016, Selangor, Malaysia

1. The Ninth ASEAN Education Ministers Meeting (9th ASED) was held on 25 May 2016 in Selangor, Malaysia, in conjunction with the Third ASEAN Plus Three Education Ministers Meeting (3rd APT EMM) and the Third East Asia Summit Education Ministers Meeting (3rd EAS EMM). The Meeting was chaired by H.E. Dato' Seri Mahdzir Khalid, Minister of Education of Malaysia.
2. **Malaysia assumed leadership of ASED and adopted the theme *Fostering ASEAN Community of Learners: Empowering Lives through Education*** which reflects distinctly the recognition of children and young people as the collective stakeholders and focus of cooperation in education in ASEAN and among the Member States. The theme also affirms the important role of education in promoting a better quality of life for children and young people, and in providing them opportunity to participate in and benefit from the realisation of a prosperous ASEAN Community 2025.
3. Realising the need to deepen the scope of education partnership among the ASEAN Member States towards development of a more coordinated, cohesive and coherent ASEAN position and its contribution to global education issues, the Ministers **adopted the ASEAN Work Plan on Education 2016-2020** which will guide cooperation in education in the next five years, and will unify all collaboration efforts on education with ASEAN Dialogue Partners and international organisations and other entities that support ASEAN. The Ministers also **adopted the Framework and Action Plan in support of the Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Higher Education** which have been incorporated in the ASEAN Work Plan on Education 2016-2020.
4. With a view to harmonising efforts on and supporting education in ASEAN, the Ministers **directed the alignment of the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation on Education and East Asia Summit Cooperation on Education plans with the ASEAN Work Plan on Education 2016-2020**. The ASEAN Work Plan on Education focuses on eight areas including ASEAN awareness through strengthening Southeast Asian history and indigenous knowledge, quality and access to basic education for all especially the marginalised groups, information and communications technology in education, TVET and lifelong learning, Education for Sustainable Development, higher education development and quality assurance mechanisms, university-industry partnership, and capacity building for teachers and the education community.
5. The Ministers **approved the ASEAN Declaration on Strengthening Education for Out-of-School Children and Youth (OOSCY)**, and expressed appreciation to Thailand for sponsoring the formulation of the Declaration. The Ministers agreed to submit the Declaration to the ASEAN Coordinating Council for their consideration,

and for submission to the 28th ASEAN Summit in September 2016 in Lao PDR for adoption.

6. Recognising its importance in the harmonisation of higher education and technical and vocational education and training (TVET) as well as the promotion of academic mobility, the Ministers **endorsed the ASEAN Qualifications Reference Framework (AQRF) Governance and Structure**, and expressed gratitude to the AQRF Task Force for its efforts in formulating the plans to institutionalise the AQRF processes on a voluntary basis at the national and regional levels. The Ministers also **approved the revised Charter of the ASEAN University Network (AUN)** in consideration of the need for AUN to be aligned with the new developments in ASEAN.
7. The Ministers **noted with appreciation the progress made on education cooperation** under the ASEAN framework and under the purview of the ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Education (SOM-ED) particularly on higher education and TVET development, qualifications frameworks, quality assurance, student mobility, credit transfer, university collaboration, and people-to-people connectivity. The Ministers **expressed appreciation on the progress made** on programme implementation of AUN, including AUN Southeast Asia Engineering Education Development Network (AUN/SEED-Net) as well as the ASEAN-EU Cooperation on Education: EU Support to Higher Education in ASEAN Region (SHARE), the GIZ Regional Cooperation Programme to Improve the Training of TVET Personnel (RECOTVET), the Fulbright U.S.-ASEAN Initiative, and the Connecting the Mekong through Education and Training (COMET) Project.
8. The Ministers **welcomed the joint initiative** with UNESCO and SEAMEO on the promotion of **intercultural dialogue and culture of peace** through shared histories in Southeast Asia; and the joint initiative with UNICEF and SEAMEO on the **Southeast Asia Primary Learning Metrics (SEAPLM)**, respectively. The Ministers also **welcomed potential collaboration** with Teach For All Network in expanding educational opportunities for children through teacher training. The Ministers further **encouraged the promotion of shared universal values educational exchanges in ASEAN** through the gains and experiences of Indonesia in its collaboration with Japan. These prospective collaborative projects aim to achieve the shared goals in enhancing equitable opportunities to quality education and focusing interventions to improve learning outcomes.
9. The Ministers **noted the progress in the application of the ASEAN Quality Assurance Network (AQAN)** to become an Entity Associated with ASEAN as well as the **proposed Cooperation Agreement between ASEAN and the Government of Hungary on Education Cooperation**, and looked forward to the completion of the approval process of the two initiatives at the level of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR) to ASEAN.
10. The Ministers **expressed their appreciation to Malaysia** for the warm hospitality and excellent arrangements made in hosting the 9th ASED.
