

**Joint Media Statement of the Tenth ASEAN Heads of Statistical Offices Meeting
(AHSOM 10), Chiang Mai, Thailand, 26-27 January 2010
Chiang Mai, Thailand, 26-27 January 2010**

Introduction

1. We, the ASEAN Heads of Statistical Offices, convened our tenth meeting in Chiang Mai, Thailand with renewed commitment to strengthening cooperation towards new directions for statistics.
2. Ms. Jirawan Boonperm, Director-General of the Thai National Statistical Office, presided over our Meeting.

Towards a strong and dependable ASEAN Community Statistical System

3. As implementation of the ASEAN Charter and the Roadmap on the ASEAN Community 2015 gets into full swing, we anticipate increased and more diverse demand for statistics in the ASEAN Community. We therefore agree that the current ASEAN Framework of Cooperation in Statistics that we formulated in 2003 needs to be enhanced to enable our statistical systems better respond to information needs attendant to the ASEAN Charter.
4. We agree that an enhanced framework of cooperation should lay down the groundwork towards the establishment of a strong and dependable ASEAN Community Statistical System (ACSS) in parallel with and in support of the establishment of the ASEAN Community by 2015. The envisioned ACSS should be able to ensure recurrent supply of timely, comparable, relevant and high quality official statistics to help build knowledge for sound policy making and monitoring in the ASEAN Community.
5. We are pleased with the progress of our strategic planning process, which has been guided by the broad framework for the development of ASEAN Statistics that we adopted in AHSOM9 in January 2009 in Singapore, building on the strengths and gains of the current cooperation through AHSOM as well as the initiatives of the national and international statistical systems.
6. We commit to continue working together in consultation with all key stakeholders to enhance the framework of cooperation and develop an ASEAN Statistics Strategy towards the ACSS by 2015.
7. We emphasize the need to promote good governance for statistics. We stress the need for further strengthening of ASEANstats of the ASEAN Secretariat to lead the harmonization process in the region and serve as bridge between AHSOM and ASEAN policy makers. We also stress the need to enhance the capacity of national statistical offices and advocate for better recognition of their role in the ASEAN process.

Statistics for all

8. We agree to continue the process of enhancing the ASEAN Statistical Indicators as the main reference on the core set of statistics that we shall develop and produce through deeper analysis of needs of key user groups with wider consultation.

9. Mindful of the various stages of development and levels of capacity among our national statistical systems, we shall strive to provide statistics for all to promote and facilitate a culture of knowledge-based policy making and monitoring in the ASEAN Community. We agree to help develop outputs that disseminate and communicate statistics among relevant stakeholders such as the ASEAN Community Progress Monitoring System (ACPMS), enhanced ASEAN Statistical Yearbook (ASYB) and other user-relevant products and services.

Better harmonized statistics in support of ASEAN integration

10. We are encouraged with the progress in the various ongoing initiatives to harmonise statistics in key areas such as trade in goods, trade in services, investment, and manufacturing industry, and plans to improve other statistical domains such as system of national accounts, labour, and population census.

11. We shall draw from best practices and experiences and cooperate further to address problems through closer collaboration and technical assistance in the spirit of ASEAN-help-ASEAN mechanism and with the support of our international development partners.

Enhanced international cooperation and partnerships

12. We acknowledge and appreciate the continued support of our development partners—our counterpart statistical systems in ASEAN's dialogue partner countries and the international statistical community, in many areas of our statistical cooperation. We reiterate our support to improve coordination and communication among all concerned for better synergy and to optimize gains and benefits from international expertise and resources.

Hosting of AHSOM

13. We express our appreciation to Thailand, in particular the Thai National Statistical Office, for the excellent leadership, meeting arrangements and facilitation, and for the warm hospitality accorded to us during these AHSOM10 and related meetings.

14. We acknowledge with appreciation the acceptance by Viet Nam to chair and host the Eleventh AHSOM in 2011.

ASEAN Heads of Statistical Offices

1. BRUNEI DARUSSALAM: Mr. Pg. Hj. Osman bin Pg. Hj. Hashim
2. CAMBODIA: Mr. San Sythan
3. INDONESIA: Dr. Rusman Heriawan

4. LAO PDR: Dr. Samaychanh Boupna
5. MALAYSIA: Dato' Wan Ramlah binti Wan Abd Raof
6. MYANMAR: Mr. Tun Tun Naing
7. PHILIPPINES: Ms. Carmelita N. Ericta
8. PHILIPPINES: Dr. Romulo A. Virola
9. SINGAPORE: Ms. Wong Wee Kim
10. THAILAND: Ms. Jirawan Boonperm
11. VIET NAM: Mr. Nguyen Duc Hoa