

## **JOINT STATEMENT OF THE 6<sup>TH</sup> ASEAN PLUS THREE HEALTH MINISTERS MEETING**

**19 September in 2014, Ha Noi, Viet Nam**

1. WE, the Ministers/Heads of Delegations responsible for health of ASEAN Plus Three Countries, representing Brunei Darussalam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Republic Union of Myanmar, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand, the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, the People's Republic of China, Japan, and the Republic of Korea, convened the 6<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Plus Three Health Ministers Meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> September in 2014 in Ha Noi, Viet Nam, in the spirit of unity and with the ultimate goal to achieve quality of health for all ASEAN Plus Three citizens.
2. We discuss progress in implementing joint activities in the health sector, especially in strengthening Primary Health Care for Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases (NCD) and shared our concerns and commitments to strengthening our cooperation.
3. We acknowledge our efforts of the ASEAN Plus Three health cooperation to collectively advocate and facilitate further social and economic measures to halt and reverse the increasing trends on modifiable risk factors of NCD. We recognise the need to strengthen the prevention and control of NCD, risk factors and underlying determinants through people-centered primary health care and Universal Health Coverage (UHC). We also note that mental health is an important cause of morbidity and contribute to the global NCD burden, for which there is a need to provide equitable access to effective programmes and health-care interventions.
4. We undertake to work closely to promote an enabling environment to facilitate healthy lifestyles and choices and to strengthen primary health care system for NCD prevention and control. We re-affirm our commitment to the Global Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of NCD 2013-2020 endorsed by the 66<sup>th</sup> World Health Assembly in 2013 as well as Bandar Seri Begawan Declaration on Noncommunicable Diseases adopted at the 23<sup>rd</sup> ASEAN Summit in 2013.
5. We note the efforts of ASEAN Plus Three health cooperation in the areas of traditional medicine, health-related issues of ageing, NCD, disaster health management, maternal and child health, pandemic preparedness and response, communicable diseases and emerging infectious diseases. We also note the continuous progress made in the ASEAN Plus Three health cooperation through the ASEAN Plus Three Field Epidemiology Training Network (FETN), ASEAN Plus Three Partnership Laboratories (APL), Animal and Human Health Cooperation, Risk Communication, and through the project activities addressing specific disease-interventions including malaria, rabies and dengue.

6. We express our concerns on the ongoing threat of the Emerging Infectious Diseases (EIDs) and we encourage the Plus Three Countries to continue supporting the EIDs Programme that has brought fruitful collaboration.

7. We acknowledge the efforts of ASEAN Plus Three health cooperation in calling for rabies elimination by 2020 through the adopted ASEAN Rabies Elimination Strategy with engagement of the government and other stakeholders to support capacity strengthening and cooperation of both animal health and human health under the one health approach.

8. We re-emphasise the significance of UHC, following the joint statement made by the 5<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Plus Three Health Ministers Meeting (APTHMM) in July 2012 in Phuket, Thailand, to improve the well-being of all citizens and to achieve sustainable development and equity for our society. We advocate UHC as one of the health priorities in the ASEAN Post-2015 Health Development Agenda and welcome the establishment of the ASEAN Plus Three UHC Network. We urge the Network to accelerate the implementation of its action plan and activities. We welcome advocacy efforts to achieve UHC and will strive to further elevate and strengthen commitment by working through highest regional fora including ASEAN Plus Three Summit.

9. We share the view to strengthen health financing scheme and expansion the health coverage, where appropriate, in each ASEAN Plus Three Country. We also reaffirm to share experiences in increasing technical capacity to develop affordable systems of health financing in order to reduce out-of-pocket payment and ensuring quality health services. We aspire to improve the access to essential medicines and cost effective health technologies to diagnose and treat medical problems. We commit to build up a sufficient capacity of well-trained health workers at all levels to provide appropriate and adequate services to our people.

10. We appreciate the ASEAN Plus Three cooperation on HIV and AIDS, especially the efforts in Getting to Zero New HIV infections, Zero Discrimination and Zero AIDS-related Deaths. We express our concerns on the decreasing global budget for HIV and AIDS, and as such, share the view to have long-term and sustainable cooperation of ASEAN Plus Three on HIV and AIDS. We also note the need to strengthen cooperation on building capacity and surveillance on HIV and AIDS and enhancing HIV and AIDS prevention and control activities in the border areas.

11. We recognise that ASEAN Plus Three countries are now facing an aging population, and its health related issues. We appreciate initiatives on Active Aging led by Japan within ASEAN, including the ASEAN-Japan Regional Conference on Active Ageing and ASEAN-Japan High Level Officials Meeting on Caring Societies. We welcome the outcomes of those meetings and expect to build a sustainable collaborative network among ASEAN Plus Three Countries.

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12. We recognise that health development is a shared responsibility. Hence, inclusive participation of other sectors in the policy development process is a requirement for Health in All Policies (HiAP).

13. We share the view in further strengthening the ASEAN Secretariat and jointly working in overcoming the challenges, and at the same time, promote a sense of belonging and identity among ASEAN people.

14. We also welcome the ASEAN Health Initiative, which would contribute to the improvement of health in ASEAN, proposed at the ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit Meeting in December 2013. We support this Initiative by Japan which is in alignment with the priority health issues in ASEAN.

15. We reaffirm the importance of strengthening capacity in Disaster Health Management in ASEAN which was newly identified as an area for collaboration and reflected as a priority area in the ASEAN Post-2015 Health Development Agenda. We welcome Japan's initiative to strengthen Disaster Health Management capacity in ASEAN.

16. We acknowledge the support of development partners, World Health Organization, Asian Development Bank, Global Fund, bilateral development partners, civil society organisations and private sectors and commit to collaborate closely with them in the future.

17. We confirm our ASEAN Post-2015 Health Development Agenda through the ASEAN Plus Three Senior Official Meeting of Health Development (SOMHD) in the implementation of relevant work plans, enhancing multi-sectoral stakeholders engagement, information sharing and mobilisation of technical and financial support from ASEAN Plus Three Countries and dialogue partners. We acknowledge the need to pursue stronger commitments and cooperation from other sectors in addressing cross-cutting issues that has implication to the health sector including disaster management and humanitarian assistance, regional mechanism in responding to impacts of pandemics or other biological health threats, access to medicines and health care and noncommunicable diseases.

We look forward to further exchanges of views and joint cooperation in health development at our next meeting in Brunei Darussalam in 2016.

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