JOINT STATEMENT
THE TENTH ASEAN MINISTERS MEETING ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ERADICATION
(10TH AMRDPE)
6TH OCTOBER 2017, KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA

1. We the Ministers responsible for Rural Development and Poverty Eradication in ASEAN met on 6 October 2017 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, for the 10th AMRDPE. Our meeting was preceded by the Fourteenth ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (14th SOMRDPE) on 2-3 October 2017; Tenth ASEAN Plus Three Senior Officials Meeting on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (10th SOMRDPE+3) on 4 October 2017 and ASEAN Forum on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication on 5 October 2017. We adopted “Rural Transformation: Enhancing Human Capital towards a resilient Rural Community” as the theme of our meeting.

2. We expressed our appreciation for Malaysia’s hosting of the 10th AMRDPE and congratulated H.E. Ismail Sabri Yaakob, Minister of the Ministry of Rural and Regional Development of Malaysia on his assumption of AMRDPE chairmanship until 2019. We resonate with the Chair’s message that underscored the widening inequality between urban and rural areas, and recognised the vast potential of accelerating rural development and poverty reduction through enhancement of human capital towards building resilience in rural communities. We support the call of H.E. Minister Sabri Yakob for greater synergies and partnerships amongst the Member States and stakeholders to work together to find innovative solutions to poverty eradication.

3. We acknowledged the progress and achievements under the chairmanship of Lao PDR particularly the finalisation of the TOR of the Leadership Award on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication and congratulated Lao PDR for the leadership and continued efforts in coordinating important initiatives in rural development and poverty eradication.

Progress of the implementation of the ASEAN Framework Action Plan on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication

4. We noted with appreciation the successful implementation of the ASEAN Framework Action Plan on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (2011-2015) as well as the substantive headway made in the implementation of the
successor Framework Action plan on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (2016-2020). We called on all Member States to fully support the plan. We also called for continued efforts among AMS to widen and deepen opportunities that will enable the poor and vulnerable groups to participate in and benefit from opportunities resulting from ASEAN cooperation on rural development and poverty eradication.

5. We reaffirmed our commitment to promote rural development and poverty eradication in ASEAN in order to build resilient rural communities in line with the vision of the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community for 2025.

ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the Sustainable Development Goals

6. We exchanged views and recognised the necessity of ensuring that the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development are implemented in a mutually reinforcing manner to build a people-oriented, people-centred ASEAN Community. We encouraged the Member States to advance the complementarity between these two agenda in order to uplift the living standards of people in ASEAN and to rid them of poverty. To this end, we committed to continue and enhance our cooperation to support complementarities between the ASEAN Vision 2025 and the UN SDGs.

7. We noted the need for closer cross-sectoral collaboration among ASEAN bodies on rural development and poverty eradication, agriculture, social welfare and development and health to ensure sustainable and inclusive development in ASEAN and provided guidance to SOMRDPE on the key strategies to leverage regional cooperation to advance inclusive and sustainable development to eradicate poverty in the region.

8. We lauded the work of SOMRDPE and noted the progress on the development of the ASCC Blueprint 2025 M&E Results Framework, and the M&E systems and results framework/logic model by other ASEAN bodies. We underlined the importance of the key result areas and indicators under the Framework Action Plan on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (2016-2020) in order to better account the contribution of our regional cooperation in RDPE in building the ASEAN Community. We encouraged SOMRDPE to develop its own results framework/logic model of the work plan.
9. We also noted with appreciation the key recommendation from the 6th ASEAN PPPP Forum on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication under the theme of “Rural Transformation: Enhancing Human Capital towards a Resilient Rural Community”. We also encouraged further dialogue on the recommendations on building Climate and Environmental, Economic and Institutional Resiliency in the ASEAN region.

10. We congratulated the NGOs/CSOs from ASEAN Member States that received the Third ASEAN Rural Development and Poverty Eradication Leadership Awards on 6 October 2017, namely: Majlis Perundingan Kampong Kapok (Kampung Kapok Village Consultative Council) and Bank Islam Brunei Darussalam (BIBD) of Brunei Darussalam, Heifer International Cambodia and SentoSaSilk of Cambodia, Maha Bhoga Marga Foundation and Koperasi Wanita Srikandi of Indonesia, Women and Family Development Deposit Taking Microfinance Institution of Lao Women Union and Fish Farm of Pakse district of Lao PDR, eBario and Bank Simpanan Nasional of Malaysia, Social Vision Services and Myannya Awba Group of Company of Myanmar, Alternative Indigenous Development Foundation (AIDFI) and Coffee for Peace of Philippines, AMKFSC Community Services and Temasek Foundation of Singapore, Pracharath Rak Samakkee Phuket and Thai Beverage Public Company of Thailand, Viet Nam Federation of Agriculture and Rural Development Associations (VFARDA) and Cong Binh Company of Viet Nam.

Culture of Prevention

11. We welcomed “Culture of Prevention Agenda” initiative to achieve a Peaceful, Inclusive, Resilient, Healthy and Harmonious Society. We appreciated the intent of the initiative to develop effective upstream preventive policies and initiatives especially the promotion of a culture of resilience and care for the environment which resonates with our work and the theme for our meeting. We encouraged the Member States to lend full appreciation and support to this pivotal initiative.

Partnership with Plus Three countries

12. We expressed appreciation for the continued friendship and support of the Plus Three countries in rural development and poverty eradication in ASEAN. We support a more engaging dialogue with ASEAN and the Plus Three countries, taking into account priority areas indicated in the East Asia Vision Group (EAVGII)
Report. We exchanged views on strengthening the collaboration between ASEAN and the Plus Three countries to achieve common goals of rural development and poverty eradication and to make greater efforts to reduce polarisation pertaining to urban-rural areas and narrow development gaps.

13. We congratulated the successful conduct of the ASEAN-China-UNDP Symposium on Financing the Implementation of the SDGs which provided an invaluable platform for ASEAN, China and UNDP to work together and to support ASEAN Member States to obtain more integrated national financing frameworks for leveraging and managing finance for sustainable development.

The 11th AMRDPE

14. We noted with appreciation Myanmar’s readiness to host the Eleventh ASEAN Ministers Meeting on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (11th AMRDPE) in 2019.

15. We expressed our sincere appreciation to the Government of Malaysia for the warm hospitality and excellent arrangements for the Meeting. We also thanked the ASEAN Secretariat for the assistance rendered to the 10th AMRDPE and related meetings.