

Joint Media Statement

The 7th Session of the ASEAN Community Statistical System (ACSS) Committee

11-13 October 2017, Manila, Philippines

The 7th Session of the ACSS Committee, hosted by the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), was held from 11 to 13 October 2017 in Manila, Philippines. The Session was chaired by Dr. Lisa Grace S. Bersales, Undersecretary, National Statistician and Civil Registrar General. Ms. Wong Wee Kim, Chief Statistician, Singapore Department of Statistics, Ministry of Trade and Industry, served as Co-chairperson.

The Heads of the National Statistical Offices (NSOs) of the ASEAN Member States that are also members of the ACSS Committee reaffirmed their commitment to further enhance the regional statistical cooperation among the ASEAN Member States, and to respond proactively to emerging statistical requirements from the implementation of *ASEAN 2025: Forging Ahead Together*.

In pursuit of the ACSS Vision of “a responsive ASEAN Community Statistical System providing high quality statistics”, we welcomed the implementation of the second self-assessment of the ACSS Code of Practice (CoP) for Section A-Institutional Environment at the NSO level in 2017, following the first assessment in 2015. We encouraged the regular conduct of such assessment to ensure compliance of key principles of CoP Section A, in terms of mandate for data collection, professionalism and integrity, confidentiality, accountability, statistical cooperation and coordination.

In an effort to ensure good governance and accountability, and in line with the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) 2025 Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Framework, we adopted the *Monitoring and Evaluation System of the ACSS Strategic Plan 2016-2025*, containing key performance indicators (KPIs) to measure and monitor the outcomes of regional cooperation in building robust statistical systems at both regional and national levels.

We appreciated the efforts of the ASEAN Member States to further strengthen statistical cooperation at the national level. The Department of Statistics, Department of Economic Planning and Development (JPKE) of Brunei Darussalam has collaborated with relevant ministries and departments, in promoting data sharing and use of administrative data to complement the results of the Population and Housing Census Update held in 2016. The National Institute of Statistics of Cambodia is developing its National Strategies for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) 2019-2023, an implementation plan for SDG measurement and data collection framework. The National Assembly and Government of Lao PDR have approved the Statistics Law and Strategy for the Sustainable Development of the National Statistical System 2016-2025 and Vision 2030 in May 2017. Myanmar Central Statistical Organisation (CSO) has developed its action plan to implement the NSDS 2018-2023, based on the outcomes of peer review conducted in 2016, while Myanmar Statistical Law was approved by the Lower House of the Parliament. Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM) in 2017 has made 25 courtesy visits to government and private agencies to foster closer cooperation, to promote data sharing and to enhance the use of administrative data. The General Statistics Office of Viet Nam successfully conducted the Economic Census 2017, provided a two-month statistical training to 20 Lao Statistics Bureau staff and hosted one study visit from the Office of Industrial Economics of Thailand.

In response to greater ASEAN data needs, we supported the continuing initiatives of the Working Groups on International Merchandise Trade Statistics (WGIMTS), International Investment Statistics (WGIIS), and Statistics of International Trade in Services (WGSITS), to

comply with internationally agreed frameworks in the harmonisation of ASEAN statistics, and the implementation of the ACSS Code of Practice Assessment Measures for Section B-Statistical Process and Section C-Statistical Output.

We welcomed the 1st Meeting of the Working Group on the System of National Accounts (WGSNA1), and we endorsed the WGSNA's proposal on the ASEAN's 2008 SNA Implementation Roadmap 2018-2025 and its 2025 targets for the 2008 SNA implementation compliance, to improve the scope, quality and comparability of the national accounts and support economic statistics in ASEAN. We appreciated the chairmanship of BPS-Statistics Indonesia, active contributions of WGSNA members, and ASEANstats for the successful holding of WGSNA1.

As a show of our commitment to the global call for monitoring the effective implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030, we established the Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals Indicators (WGSDGI), with the aim to address the statistical requirements in monitoring and reviewing the implementation of the SDGs in the ASEAN Member States, and the region's position at the global level, particularly for discussing the development of ASEAN SDG indicators, including the implementation roadmap and work plan.

At the national level, as the focal point for SDG Indicators at the national level, DOSM participated in SDGs forums at both national and international levels. One important SDG forum is the 2017 International Conference on Sustainable Development Goal Statistics (ICSDGS) which was held on October 4-6, 2017 in Manila, Philippines and co-organized by the Philippine Statistics Authority and the United Nations Statistics Division. On big data, DOSM has initiated the implementation of Statistics Big Data Analytics project, in line with the Eleventh Malaysia Plan strategic thrusts and SDGs Indicators. The Singapore Department of Statistics has coordinated the provision of national statistics required for the baseline report on the status of the SDG Indicators for ESCAP region being compiled by ESCAP- SIAP. On the use of Big Data, Singapore has embarked on a pilot project to use web scraping tools to efficiently extract online prices for the compilation of the Consumer Price Index. Thai National Statistical Office (TNSO) is working toward the achievement of 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, including the conduct of Low-Income Population Survey covering over 10 million registered low income citizens as a basis of the provision for the Government subsidy.

We noted with appreciation the launch of three landmark publications by ASEANstats to celebrate the ASEAN golden jubilee on 8 August 2017. These publications are *Celebrating ASEAN: 50 Years of Evolution and Progress*, *the ASEAN Statistical Report on Millennium Development Goals*, and *the ASEAN Community Progress Monitoring System (ACPMS) 2017 Report*. All of these have been made publicly available in the newly improved website of ASEANstats together with ASEAN@50 infographic leaflets and video. We noted that all of these outreach materials have successfully contributed towards enhancing the dissemination, communication, visibility, and use of ASEAN statistics. We commended the efforts made in the compilation and provision of national statistics for the preparation of these publications by the ASEAN Member States through the Working Group on Data Sharing, Analysis, Dissemination and Communication.

At the national level, we welcomed the conduct of the ASEAN Statistical Forum: Partnering for Change, Engaging the Regional Statistical System on 8 August 2017 by the Philippine Statistics Authority to further improve the visibility of the ACSS in the National Statistical System. We welcomed the Singapore Department of Statistics' efforts in better communicating statistics and improving data usage through the use of infographics which present data in an interesting and engaging manner. DOSM has launched the People Centric Statistics through Visual Communication by introducing three innovative products in 2017, namely Mobile Application MyLocalStats to get the district's statistics; Mobile

Application BizCode@Stats to get the business code and Consumer Price Index (CPI) Capsule to understand CPI via visual communication.

In our attempt to bridge the gaps in ASEAN statistics, we embarked on the development of the ASEAN Statistical Training/Capacity Building Strategy to identify the needs and capacities of the National Statistical Systems within the framework of ASEAN-Help-ASEAN cooperation to complement the programmes of international institutions and donor-projects.

We endeavour to establish a pool of regional experts in the key areas of statistics through the framework of ASEAN-Help-ASEAN cooperation. This initiative aims to advance the statistical capacities of the ASEAN Member States and ASEANstats through continuous provision of trainings, workshops, and study visits and participation in international meetings.

We appreciated the participation of and contribution from our Development Partners, particularly, COMPASS, AADCPII, AANZFTA ECWP, as well as the support from International Organisations, such as the EU, ADB, IMF, UNESCAP, UNFPA and PARIS21, towards our journey as “A responsive ASEAN Community Statistical System providing high quality statistics.”

We expressed our sincere gratitude to the Government of the Philippines, through the Philippine Statistics Authority, for its excellent chairmanship, warm hospitality and excellent arrangements of the Seventh Session of the ACSS Committee.

We welcomed the Chairmanship of the Singapore Department of Statistics of the ACSS Committee in 2018.

---- end ----

ASEAN Community Statistical System (ACSS) Committee

1. BRUNEI DARUSSALAM: **Ms. Hjh. Mariah binti Hj. Yahya**
2. KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA: **Mdm. Hang Lina**
3. REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA: **Mr. Setianto**
4. LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC: **Dr. Samaychanh Boupcha**
5. MALAYSIA: **Ms. Nazaria Baharudin**
6. THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR: **Dr. Wah Wah Maung**
7. REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES: **Dr. Lisa Grace S. Bersales**
8. REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE: **Ms. Wong Wee Kim**
9. KINGDOM OF THAILAND: **Mr. Puchapong Nodthaisong**
10. THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM: **Dr. Vu Thanh Liem**
11. ASEAN SECRETARIAT: **Dr. Julia Puspawati Tjaja**

Manila, Philippines, 13 October 2017