

**THE SEVENTEENTH ASEAN AND CHINA TRANSPORT MINISTERS MEETING
(17th ATM+CHINA)**

8 November 2018, Bangkok, Thailand

JOINT MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

1. The Seventeenth ASEAN and China Transport Ministers Meeting (17th ATM+China) was held on 8 November 2018 in Bangkok, Thailand. The Meeting was co-chaired by H.E. Mr. Arkhom Termpittayapaisith, Minister of Transport of Thailand and H.E. Mr. DAI Dongchang, Vice Minister for Transport of the People's Republic of China. The Meeting was preceded by the Seventeenth ASEAN and China Senior Transport Officials Meeting (17th STOM+China) held on 6 November 2018.
2. The Ministers highly appreciated the speech delivered by Premier LI Keqiang of the State Council of China at the 20th China-ASEAN Summit held in Manila in November, 2017. In particular, the Premier's proposal in his speech to effectively implement the revised Strategic Plan for ASEAN-China Transport Cooperation to demonstrate the real difference that such cooperation can bring.
3. The Ministers commended the contributions of transport cooperation to China-ASEAN strategic partnership which celebrates its 15th anniversary this year and committed to further transport cooperation for the elevation of overall relations between China and ASEAN.
4. The Ministers adopted in principle the 2018 – 2020 Action Programme of the Revised Strategic Plan for ASEAN-China Transport Cooperation which aligns with ASEAN's goals and actions in the Kuala Lumpur Transport Strategic Plan 2016-2025 and China's vision of "Belt and Road Initiative". The Action Programme would serve to provide guidance in implementing the Revised Strategic Plan for ASEAN-China Transport Cooperation.
5. The Ministers welcomed the progress made in several joint projects/activities including Feasibility Study for Further Improvement of the Navigation Channel of Lancang-Mekong River; ASEAN-China Port Cities Cooperation Network; Logistics Information Cooperation; Port Connectivity and Industry Opening-up (Port Alliance); Science-technology Cooperation; Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC) Fellowship Training for Aviation Personnel of ASEAN; Marine Oil Spill Risk Assessment and Monitoring of Marine Oil Spill; ASEAN Regional Forum Ferry Safety Workshop; and Seminar on Facilitating Connection of Ships, Ports and People and other cooperation projects.
6. The Ministers noted with appreciation the implementation status of ASEAN-China Air Transport Agreement (AC-ATA) and its Protocols 1 and 2 and urged the senior officials and relevant working groups to expedite the negotiations to reach an agreement on a new Protocol 3 to expand Fifth Freedom Traffic Rights between ASEAN and China under the intra-package of Protocol 2, which would enhance connectivity as well as promote trade, tourism and investment in ASEAN and China.

7. The Ministers were pleased with major progress in railway projects and international road transport facilitation and looked forward to further progress under the ASEAN-China Maritime Transport Agreement and Development Strategy for ASEAN-China Transport Scientific and Technological Cooperation.

8. The Ministers agreed to enhance cooperation in maritime personnel training and education, including encouraging maritime universities to conduct exchanges and cooperation and to carry out joint cooperation projects. The Ministers welcomed China's proposal to offer 30 government scholarships annually to ASEAN students for master's and doctor's degrees in nautical science and technology, marine engineering and law studies, etc.

9. The Eighteenth ASEAN and China Transport Ministers Meeting will be held in Viet Nam in 2019.

LIST OF MINISTERS

- (a) H.E. Dato Abdul Mutalib Yusof, Minister of Communications of Brunei Darussalam;
- (b) H.E. Mr. Sun Chanthol, Senior Minister and Minister of Public Works and Transport of Cambodia;
- (c) H.E. Mr. DAI Dongchang, Vice Minister for Transport of China;
- (d) H.E. Mr. Budi Karya Sumadi, Minister for Transportation of Indonesia;
- (e) H.E. Dr. Bounchanh Sinthavong, Minister of Public Works and Transport of Lao PDR;
- (f) H.E. Mr. Loke Siew Fook, Minister of Transport of Malaysia;
- (g) H.E. Mr. Thant Sin Maung, Union Minister of Transport and Communications of Myanmar;
- (h) H.E. Mr. Arthur P. Tugade, Secretary of Transportation of the Philippines;
- (i) H.E. Mr. Khaw Boon Wan, Coordinating Minister for Infrastructure and Minister for Transport of Singapore;
- (j) H.E. Mr. Arkhom Termpittayapaisith, Minister of Transport of Thailand;
- (k) H.E. Mr. Nguyen Van The, Minister of Transport of Viet Nam; and
- (l) H.E. Dato Lim Jock Hoi, Secretary General of ASEAN.