



JOINT STATEMENT OF THE TENTH ASEAN EDUCATION MINISTERS MEETING

31 October 2018
Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar

1. The Tenth ASEAN Education Ministers Meeting (10th ASED) was held on 31 October 2018 in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar in conjunction with the Fourth ASEAN Plus Three Education Ministers Meeting (4th APT EMM) and the Fourth East Asia Summit Education Ministers Meeting (4th EAS EMM). The Meeting was chaired by H.E. Dr Myo Thein Gyi, Union Minister of Education of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

2. Myanmar assumed leadership of ASED and adopted the theme *Fostering Lifelong Learning of the ASEAN Community: Improving Skills through Quality Education and Training*. The chosen theme aims to inculcate learning as a lifelong process that will equip the peoples of ASEAN with the means to be adaptive, versatile and responsive to the continuously evolving needs of society. The theme reaffirms the value of education including the potential gains to be achieved through quality technical and vocational education and training (TVET). In this regard, we exchanged views about our experiences in designing and implementing education reforms particularly in response to the rise of the digital economy and the emergence of the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

3. We note with appreciation the progress made on education cooperation under the ASEAN framework and under the purview of the ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Education, including the implementation of the ASEAN Work Plan on Education 2016–2020 since its adoption in 2016. We acknowledge the approach to be undertaken in convening the mid-term review of the ASEAN Work Plan on Education 2016–2020 and look forward to contributing to the implementation of the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Blueprint Results Framework as a cross-sectoral platform that will better portray the achievements of the region in advancing socio-cultural cooperation in education and beyond.

4. We recall the adoption of the Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Higher Education and are committed to facilitating the alignment and synergies of higher education initiatives as well as other efforts on education cooperation in ASEAN. To advance mobility among ASEAN students, we encourage institution-to-institution cooperation and support the convening of an ad hoc working group to assess the possibility of integrating the European Union Support to Higher Education in the ASEAN Region (SHARE) Credit Transfer System (CTS) with the ASEAN University Network-ASEAN CTS.

5. We appreciate the continued support of the European Union through the EU SHARE Programme and welcome its extension, along with its bridging

arrangements, to ensure that support for the youth of ASEAN is seamlessly provided. We further welcome the support of Canada, Hungary, India, and the United States in further providing the peoples of ASEAN with scholarship opportunities in higher education.

6. We are cognisant that the Fourth Industrial Revolution brings great opportunities. On the other hand, it also brings challenges such as the potential displacement of workers, underemployment, exacerbated inequality, as well as the loss of individuality. In order to address these issues, we must be visionary in our approach and consider new and innovative ways in which we provide education. To this end, we commit to ensuring inclusive education in ASEAN as well as inculcating lifelong learning through further education reforms.

7. Recognising the role of TVET in bridging the skills gap, we further note the proposal for the ASEAN TVET Development Council, which aims to support the harmonisation of TVET across ASEAN. While ASEAN Member States require further clarification about the terms of references of the Council, such institutionalisation would enable the streamlining of TVET initiatives in the region, such as the Regional Working Group on Business and Industry Cooperation and the implementation of Regional Standards for In-Country Trainers, as well as nurture collaborations with partners such as Switzerland, and Germany through its Regional Cooperation Programme for TVET in ASEAN (RECOTVET).

8. In line with the ASEAN Declaration on Strengthening Education for Out-of-School Children and Youth (OOSCY), we reiterate our commitment to guaranteeing equitable access to universal education in ASEAN. In this regard, we look forward to the establishment of the ASEAN Working Group on OOSCY that will oversee the implementation of the Regional Action Plan for OOSCY through the: (i) development of an equivalency framework for inclusive basic education within ASEAN Member States and at the regional level; (ii) advocacy, communication and knowledge sharing for the promotion of inclusive education and OOSCY in ASEAN; and (iii) evidence and statistical capacity enhancement on OOSCY in ASEAN. We further appreciate the continuous support extended by the SEAMEO Secretariat, UNESCO Bangkok, and the UNICEF East Asia and Pacific Regional Office throughout the development and implementation of the ASEAN OOSCY initiative as well as in furthering the implementation of the ASEAN Work Plan on Education 2016–2020.

9. Mindful that education is a powerful vessel for cross-cutting socio-cultural issues, we welcome the opportunity to partake in initiatives geared towards the fulfilment of an ASEAN Community that engages and benefits the people and which is inclusive, sustainable, resilient and dynamic. In this regard, we support the continuation of the ASEAN Safe Schools Initiative, the regional implementation of the Southeast Asia Primary Learning Metrics (SEA-PLM) programme as well as the institutionalisation of human rights and peace education in higher education and ASEAN awareness in upper secondary education among ASEAN Member States.

10. Appreciative of the support of partners and ASEAN entities in the implementation of the ASEAN Work Plan on Education 2016–2020, we noted the convening of the first meeting of the ASEAN-Russia Working Group on Education as well as the finalisation of the ASEAN-China Plan of Action on Education. We further

express our appreciation for the achievements made by SEAMEO RIHED, the ASEAN University Network (AUN), the AUN/Southeast Asia Engineering Education Development Network (SEED-Net), the ASEAN Quality Assurance Network (AQAN), the ASEAN Qualifications Reference Framework (AQR) Committee, and the ASEAN Foundation.

11. We further express our appreciation to Myanmar for the warm hospitality and excellent arrangements made in hosting the 10th ASED as well as to the ASEAN Secretariat for their valuable support to the Meeting.

12. We further noted that the 11th ASED will be hosted by the Philippines in 2020.
