

**THE EIGHTEENTH ASEAN AND CHINA TRANSPORT MINISTERS MEETING
(18th ATM+CHINA)**

14 November 2019, Ha Noi, Viet Nam

JOINT MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

1. The Eighteenth ASEAN and China Transport Ministers Meeting (18th ATM+China) was held on 14 November 2019 in Ha Noi, Viet Nam. The Meeting was co-chaired by H.E. Mr. Nguyen Van The, Minister of Transport of Viet Nam and H.E. Mr. Li Xiaopeng, Minister for Transport of the People's Republic of China. The Meeting was preceded by the Eighteenth ASEAN and China Senior Transport Officials Meeting (18th STOM+China) held on 12 November 2019.

2. The Ministers supported the consensus reached in the Joint Communiqué of the Leaders' Roundtable of the 2nd Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation held on 25-27 April 2019 in Beijing, China and reaffirmed their commitment to enhance transport connectivity between and among ASEAN Member States and China. The Ministers supported the further coordination of the Belt and Road Initiative and the Masterplan on ASEAN Connectivity 2025 in the transport domain, and agreed to task the senior officials and relevant working groups to discuss the development of interoperability of infrastructure to enhance air, land and sea connectivity among countries, including through interoperable and multi-modal transport.

3. The Ministers concluded the Protocol 3 on the Expansion of Fifth Freedom Traffic Rights Between Contracting Parties of the ASEAN China Air Transport Agreement (AC-ATA) to further enhance air connectivity between ASEAN and China which would serve to promote trade, tourism, investment, economic and social development.

4. The Ministers commended steady progress in the implementation of the transport initiatives, projects and activities under 2018 – 2020 Action Programme of the Revised Strategic Plan for ASEAN-China Transport Cooperation, which include the following:

- (a) China-Laos Railway and China-Thailand Railway;
- (b) Jakarta-Bandung High-speed railway;
- (c) China-Viet Nam Shuikou-Ta Lung Second Highway Bridge;
- (d) Construction of Lancang-Mekong River Automatic Identification System (AIS) Infrastructure Project;
- (e) Implementation of the Greater Mekong Subregion Cross-Border Transport Facilitation Agreement (Early Harvest);
- (f) ASEAN-China Port Cities Cooperation Network; and
- (g) China-Indonesia Port Construction and Disaster Prevention Research Center.

5. The Ministers were pleased with major progress in maritime transport projects and activities, including the following activities implemented in 2019:

- (a) 3rd ASEAN Regional Forum Workshop on Ferry Safety;
- (b) Ship Survey Technology & Management Workshop and Training Program
- (c) 4th Vessel Traffic Services (VTS) Operator training;

- (d) 5th International Level 1 Aids to Navigation (AtoN) Manager Model Course Program;
- (e) Workshop on the Smart Maritime Management and Service in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore (SOMS); and
- (f) Safety Supervision System and Facility Training (Lancang-Mekong river).

6. The Ministers welcomed joint efforts by ASEAN and China in implementing the ASEAN-China Maritime Education and Training Development Strategy, exploring and conducting capacity building activities and technical cooperation projects that will meet the needs of various States, in order to strengthen the communication and cooperation in such areas as capacity building of personnel from maritime authorities, application of advanced technology in maritime management, experience sharing in maritime management, etc., with a view to jointly promoting the level of maritime management of all States and development of the shipping industry.

7. The Ministers also welcomed new initiatives in ASEAN-China transport cooperation proposed by China at the Meeting for 2020, including but not limited to:

- (a) Cooperation with Singapore Maritime and Port Authority (MPA) as well as other ASEAN maritime authorities on the promotion, acceptance and use of electronic certificates for ships;
- (b) Workshop on the Smart Maritime Management in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore;
- (c) VTS operators training program; and
- (d) Training on the Management and technical standards of non-convention ships.

8. The Nineteenth ASEAN and China Transport Ministers Meeting will be held in Brunei Darussalam in 2020.

LIST OF MINISTERS

- (a) H.E. Dato Abdul Mutalib Yusof, Minister of Transport and Infocommunications of Brunei Darussalam;
- (b) H.E. Mr. Sun Chanthol, Senior Minister and Minister of Public Works and Transport of Cambodia;
- (c) H.E. Mr. Li Xiaopeng, Minister of Transport of China;
- (d) Mr. Djoko Sasono, Secretary General, representing 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. Saksayam Chidchob, Minister of Transport of Thailand;
- (k) H.E. Mr. Nguyen Van The, Minister of Transport of Viet Nam; and
- (l) H.E. Dr. Aladdin D. Rillo, Deputy Secretary General of ASEAN for ASEAN Economic Community.