

JOINT MEDIA STATEMENT
OF THE SEVENTH ASEAN MINISTERIAL MEETING ON MINERALS (7th AMMIN)
13 December 2019, Bangkok, Thailand

1. The 7th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Minerals (AMMin) was held on 13 December 2019 in Bangkok, Thailand.
2. H.E. Suriya Jungrungreangkit, Minister of Industry of Thailand, officiated the opening ceremony of the 7th AMMin. In his opening address, Minister Jungrungreangkit highlighted the transition to low carbon economy and Industry 4.0 as the two mega trends which will affect the minerals sector significantly in terms of sustainability as well as market supply and demand. He recognised that the movement towards low carbon economy particularly the rising use of efficient and renewable energy, such as energy storage and electric vehicles, as well as high technology and smart automation will drastically change the patterns of the minerals market. In this regard, he emphasised the importance of the ASEAN minerals sector to actively respond to the new challenges, especially through the development of the forthcoming ASEAN Minerals Cooperation Action Plan (AMCAP) Phase 2: 2021-2025.

Strengthening Focus on Trade and Investment in Minerals

3. The Ministers exchanged views on ASEAN Minerals Cooperation in response to the global mineral and mining industry opportunities and challenges. Recognising the important supporting role of the minerals sector in the ASEAN Economic Community in stimulating and enhancing business and trade integration in the region, the Ministers emphasised the need to strengthen trade and investment in minerals while enhancing the regional capacity for sustainable minerals development. The Ministers further discussed the growing role of minerals and metals in the global low carbon transition and the opportunities presented by operational innovation in the digital age. They tasked the ASEAN Senior Officials on Minerals (ASOMM) and the ASEAN Secretariat to follow through with a strong response to address these emerging trends through the development of the Phase 2 of AMCAP in 2020.

Enhancing ASEAN Minerals Cooperation

4. **Mid Term Review.** The Ministers welcomed the successful completion of the Mid-Term Review of the AMCAP-III Phase 1: 2016-2020 undertaken by the MTR Task Force under the purview of ASOMM which developed key recommendations to enhance the strategic direction and focus of the ASEAN minerals cooperation.
5. The Ministers appreciated the hard work of the ASOMM and its Working Groups in the implementation of AMCAP-III Phase 1, particularly the good progress made under the capacity building and sustainable minerals development areas, including trainings and workshops on Gemstone Mining in November 2019 in Myanmar, Sustainable Mining Practices in July 2019 in Thailand, Mine Management in July 2019 in Thailand, and Minerals Exploration and Mineral Resource Evaluation in March 2019 in Lao PDR. The Ministers commended the prioritisation process undertaken by ASOMM to implement the remaining AMCAP strategies by 2020.

6. **Regional Capacity Building Programme.** To strengthen institutional and human capacities in the ASEAN minerals sector and in view of the prioritisation made by ASOMM to improve effective implementation of the AMCAP, the Ministers welcomed the development of the Regional Capacity Building Programme under the AMCAP. The capacity building programme shall serve as a rolling work plan and is designed to provide longer-term visibility for capacity building on areas deemed priority by ASEAN Member States. The Ministers noted that this will also serve as reference for cooperation on capacity development with external partners.

7. **ASEAN Mineral Trust Fund.** To sustain the ability of the ASEAN Mineral Trust Fund (AMTF) to expedite and support the implementation of ASEAN minerals cooperation initiatives, the Ministers endorsed the continuing contributions to the AMTF by 2021, and noted ASOMM's adoption of Revised Rules and Procedure for the AMTF. The AMTF is intended to fund the implementation of ASEAN minerals projects, programmes and activities as identified and approved by ASOMM.

8. **ASEAN Minerals Awards.** The Ministers congratulated the winners of the 2nd ASEAN Minerals Awards. The Awards honored ASEAN mining companies that have made outstanding contributions towards the promotion of sustainable minerals development in the region. Sixteen companies were shortlisted for Best Practices in Mining, Processing, and Distribution under metallic and non-metallic categories. The awardees included one (1) from Brunei Darussalam, five (5) from Indonesia, two (2) from Lao PDR, two (2) from Malaysia, five (5) from Philippines, and one (1) from Thailand.

Optimising Strategic Partnership and Collaboration

9. The Ministers were pleased to note the progress of minerals cooperation with Dialogue Partners, International Organisations and other partners.

10. **Cooperation with Plus Three Countries.** The Ministers noted with satisfaction the substantive progress of cooperation with China, Japan and Republic of Korea under the ASOMM+3 framework, and reiterated commitment to further deepen the programme of activities supported by the Plus Three Countries. In particular, the Ministers noted the new exercise undertaken by the ASEAN+3 senior officials for information exchange on minerals policy development in ASEAN and in the Plus Three Countries which could contribute towards providing more comprehensive and updated mineral information and developments to create trade opportunities and address impediments to investments in the region.

11. The Ministers further noted the implementation progress of the ASEAN+3 Minerals Cooperation Work Plan 2016-2020 supported by the Plus Three Countries. The Ministers especially noted with appreciation the numerous capacity buildings activities supported by China in the area of, among others: (i) digital geological mapping system, (ii) utilisation of remote sensing technology in resources and environment, (iii) integrated geological data processing, (iv) geo-hazards monitoring and prevention technology, (v) geological correlation mapping, and (vi) scholarship opportunities for post graduate degrees in geosciences. The Ministers further noted the interest of Japan and the Republic of Korea to support ASEAN in the area of green mining, mining rehabilitation, mineral resource assessment, facilitation of trade and

investment in minerals. The Ministers looked forward to the scale up of bilateral activities to regional activities covering all ASEAN Plus Three Countries as well as the alignment of priority projects to support new directions under the forthcoming AMCAP Phase 2.

12. **Cooperation with IGF.** Acknowledging the importance of responsible and sustainable mineral development and good governance to maximise mining benefits to ASEAN people, the Ministers welcomed the ASEAN engagement with the Intergovernmental Forum on Mining, Minerals, Metals and Sustainable Development (IGF). The Ministers also welcomed the adoption by ASOMM of the Cooperation Work Plan between ASEAN and IGF for 2019-2021 to support the implementation of AMCAP. The Ministers looked forward to the successful implementation of the rolling Work Plan and noted with appreciation the successful roll-out of activities under the work plan this year.

13. **Cooperation with CCOP.** The Ministers appreciated the ongoing cooperation with the Coordinating Committee for Geoscience Programmes in East and Southeast Asia (CCOP) and looked forward to deepening collaboration in geo-information integration and sharing system, and minerals resource database.

14. **Cooperation with AFMA.** Recognising the need to facilitate smart partnership in trade and investments and to promote joint venture cooperation among ASEAN private sector companies, the Ministers noted the continuous interaction between ASOMM and its relevant working group with the ASEAN Federation on Mining Association (AFMA). The Ministers encouraged AFMA to continue to seek creative options to promote further trade and investment in the ASEAN minerals sector.

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15. The Ministers expressed their sincere appreciation to the Government and People of the Kingdom of Thailand for the warm hospitality accorded to the delegations and the excellent arrangements made for the 7th AMMin and Associated Meetings and Event. The Ministers looked forward to the convening of the 20th ASOMM in 2020 in Singapore and the 8th AMMin in 2021 in Viet Nam.
