THE NINTH AEM-RUSSIA CONSULTATIONS  
28 August 2020, Video Conference Meeting

JOINT MEDIA STATEMENT

1. Economic Ministers from the ten ASEAN Member States and the Russian Federation (“the Ministers”) met virtually on 28 August 2020 on the occasion of the Ninth AEM-Russia Consultations. The Consultations were co-chaired by H.E. Tran Tuan Anh, Minister of Industry and Trade, Viet Nam and H.E. Vladimir Ilyichev, Deputy Minister of Economic Development, the Russian Federation (representing H.E. Maxim Reshetnikov, Minister of Economic Development, the Russian Federation).

2. The Ministers acknowledged the impact of the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic that has affected the lives of many economies in the region and all over the world. The Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to take collective actions in mitigating the economic impact of the pandemic and resolved to ensure macroeconomic and financial stability by keeping the markets open for trade and investment and ensuring the supply chain connectivity, including the unimpeded flow of essential goods such as medical supplies, medicines, food, and other essential supplies in the region.

3. The Ministers welcomed the initiative to conduct the Russia – ASEAN seminar “Joint Response to the Coronavirus Outbreak” on 30 September 2020. Ministers expressed their commitment to collaborate closely to eliminate the consequences of COVID-19 through the exchange of best practices and technological solutions.

4. The Ministers underscored the important role of the rules-based multilateral trading system in upholding free, open, non-discriminatory, transparent and predictable trade and investment environment, especially in driving economic recovery in the post-pandemic period and helping businesses to move towards more resilient and sustainable growth. In this regard, the Ministers reiterated the need to keep the World Trade Organisation (WTO) efficient and relevant in respect of modern-day realities in international trade, including through the WTO reform, and ensure compliance with the existing international rules, including under the WTO.

5. The Ministers noted the performance of ASEAN-Russia bilateral trade and investment. According to the preliminary ASEAN statistics for 2019, two-way trade between ASEAN and Russia reached US$ 18.2 billion as well as the investment cooperation between ASEAN and Russia demonstrates positive development dynamics while the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) from Russia to ASEAN amounted to US$ 45 million.

6. The Ministers noted the implementation of the Post-2017 ASEAN-Russia Trade and Investment Cooperation Work Programme (Post-2017 Work Programme). The Ministers were pleased to note the progress of the activities in the field of agriculture, energy, infrastructure, including the support in realizing initiatives under the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) 2025, financial services and digital technologies in the work programme. The Ministers recognised that closer cooperation between ASEAN and Russian experts in these areas would enhance ASEAN competitiveness in strategic and
enabling technologies and infrastructures. The Ministers encouraged relevant sectoral bodies and agencies in ASEAN and Russia to put forward more project proposals to undertake activities in the Work Programme.

7. The Ministers acknowledged the importance of boosting digital transformation in the region and fostering sustainable development agenda. The Ministers also welcomed collective efforts to create good-quality infrastructure and support human resources development that consider the needs of the most vulnerable groups, including those living in remote and rural areas.

8. The Ministers welcomed the progress of implementation of the Programme of Cooperation (PoC) between ASEAN and the Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC) on Economic Cooperation for 2019-2020. The Ministers commended the successful organisation of the Regional Economic Integration Seminar in ASEAN and the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) which was held in Moscow on 9-10 December 2019. The Ministers underlined the importance of strengthening the bridge between ASEAN and the EAEU Member States to explore potential trade, investment, and economic cooperation between the two regions. In this regard, the Ministers endorsed the recommendations from the Seminar as well as the extension of the timeframe for the implementation of the Programme of Cooperation (PoC) between ASEAN and the EEC on Economic Cooperation until 2025.

9. The Ministers welcomed the engagement between the Russia-ASEAN Business Council (RABC) with the Senior Economic Officials at the sidelines of the ASEAN-EAEU Regional Economic Integration in Moscow on 10 December 2019. The Ministers looked forward for more frequent engagements between the ASEAN Business Advisory Council (ABAC) and RABC in promoting trade and investment opportunities in the region.
LIST OF MINISTERS

1. H.E. Dato Dr. Amin Liew Abdullah, Minister at the Prime Minister’s Office and Minister of Finance and Economy II, Brunei Darussalam;

2. H.E. Pan Sorasak, Minister of Commerce, Cambodia;

3. H.E. Agus Suparmanto, Minister of Trade, Indonesia;

4. H.E. Mrs. Khemmani Pholsena, Minister of Industry and Commerce, Lao PDR;

5. H.E. Dato’ Seri Mohamed Azmin Ali, Senior Minister and Minister of International Trade and Industry, Malaysia;

6. Mr. Aung Naing Oo, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations (representing H.E. Thaung Tun, Union Minister for Planning and Finance, Myanmar);

7. H.E. Ramon M. Lopez, Secretary of Trade and Industry, Philippines;

8. H.E. Vladimir Ilyichev, Deputy Minister of Economic Development, the Russian Federation (representing H.E. Maxim Reshetnikov, Minister of Economic Development, the Russian Federation);

9. Ms. Alpana Roy, Director, ASEAN Division, Ministry of Trade and Industry, Singapore (representing H.E. Chan Chun Sing, Minister for Trade and Industry, Singapore);

10. Ms. Auramon Supthaweethum, Director-General, Department of Trade Negotiations, Ministry of Commerce, Thailand (representing H.E. Jurin Laksanawisit, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Commerce, Thailand);

11. H.E. Tran Tuan Anh, Minister of Industry and Trade, Viet Nam; and

12. H.E. Dato Lim Jock Hoi, Secretary-General of ASEAN.