

**THE TWENTY-SIXTH ASEAN TRANSPORT MINISTERS MEETING
(26th ATM)
24 November 2020, Video Conference**

JOINT MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

1. The Twenty-Sixth ASEAN Transport Ministers (ATM) Meeting was held on 24 November 2020 via video conference. H.E. Dato Seri Setia Abdul Mutalib Yusof, Minister of Transport and Infocommunications of Brunei Darussalam chaired the Meeting and H.E. Mr. Sun Chanthol, Senior Minister, Minister of Public Works and Transport of Cambodia was the Vice-Chairman. The Twenty-Sixth ATM Meeting was preceded by the Fiftieth ASEAN Senior Transport Officials Meeting (STOM) and their consultations with dialogue partners held on 18-19 November 2020.

Reaffirming the commitments in COVID-19 recovery efforts

2. Recognising the unprecedented challenges posed by the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic in the region and elsewhere in the world, the Ministers welcomed the adoption of the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework (ACRF) and its Implementation Plan by the Leaders at the 37th ASEAN Summit, which would serve as the consolidated exit strategy from the COVID-19 crisis. The Ministers encouraged STOM and the relevant working groups to implement the initiatives and programmes of the ACRF Implementation Plan under the transport sectoral's purview to build a better post-pandemic future for the region.

3. The Ministers endorsed the first set of ASEAN-wide COVID-19 operational guidelines for the protection and safety of passengers and operational air crew, as well as cleaning and disinfection of aircraft. This is a set of broad and non-binding operational guidelines with reference to and in line with guidance developed by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Council Aviation Recovery Taskforce (CART). This will benefit the general travelling population as the guidance was developed to mitigate the risk of COVID-19 transmission, restore passenger confidence, and support the safe resumption of aviation activities in ASEAN.

Mid-Term Review of Kuala Lumpur Transport Strategic Plan (KLTSP) (2016-2025)

4. The Ministers expressed their satisfaction on the completion of the Mid-Term Review (MTR) of the KLTSP (2016-2025), and endorsed the MTR Recommendations and Revised Schedule of Actions of KLTSP incorporating recent global and regional initiatives involving transport sector as well as the initiatives to address the impact of COVID-19 pandemic, to be implemented between 2021-2025, that also aims to support the ACRF Implementation Plan.

Strengthening the ASEAN Single Aviation Market

5. The Ministers adopted the Implementing Protocol-2 (IP2): Aviation Training Organisations (ATOs) of the Mutual Recognition Arrangement on Flight Crew Licensing (MRA on FCL) to mutually recognise common baseline requirements for the approval of an ATO by each ASEAN Member State. The Ministers tasked the STOM and relevant working groups to continue working towards the conclusion of the subsequent IPs to facilitate aviation industry growth and development within ASEAN.

6. The Ministers also adopted the updated ASEAN Air Navigation Service (ANS) Master Plan which aims to further enhance air traffic management safety, efficiency, and capacity in the region, and advance the Seamless ASEAN Sky in support of the ASEAN Single Aviation Market. The Ministers further tasked the STOM and relevant working groups to work closely on the effective implementation of the said Master Plan.

Strengthening ASEAN Transport Network and Cross-Border Transport of Goods and Passengers

7. The Ministers launched the ASEAN Land Transport Network Map, as a web-based map for public showing connection of highways and railways under the ASEAN Highway Network (AHN) and Singapore-Kunming Rail Link (SKRL) projects with seaports, airports and dry ports as well as special economic zones in ASEAN, which would be useful for private sectors in identifying the locations for investment and business opportunities in ASEAN region.

8. The Ministers welcomed the entry into force of both Protocol 2 (Designation of Frontier Posts) and Protocol 7 (Customs Transit System) of the ASEAN Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Goods in Transit (AFAFGIT) for the Participating Member States of the ASEAN Customs Transit System (ACTS) and called for closer coordination between transport and customs officials to support full operation of ACTS in 2020. The Ministers looked forward to the full ratification of AFAFGIT Protocol 2 and Protocol 6 (Railways Border and Interchange Stations) in order to complete ratification of all implementing protocols under AFAFGIT.

9. The Ministers were pleased to note the progress made in the preparation of the pilot implementation of the ASEAN Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-Border Transport of Passengers by Road Vehicles (ASEAN CBTP) and looked forward for concerted efforts from the participating Member States for the timely conclusion of the essential requirements for the pilot implementation.

A New Decade of Safer Road Transport in ASEAN

10. The Ministers issued the Brunei Declaration on Road Safety 2020, which calls for the continued cooperation, support and commitment of ASEAN Member States to contribute to reducing road fatalities by at least 50 per cent from 2020 to 2030, in line with the key principles of the Stockholm Declaration issued at the 3rd Global Ministerial Conference on Road Safety to achieve the global road safety goals by 2030.

11. In addition, the Ministers launched the ASEAN Road Safety Video showcasing ASEAN's efforts in improving road safety and reducing the road fatalities in the region during

the last decade. The Ministers also adopted the Guidelines for Improving the Standard Procedure for Reporting Road Crashes based on UN standards in order to improve road crashes reporting mechanism and to reduce road traffic accidents.

12. The Ministers shared the view that the issuance of the Declaration, the launching of the ASEAN Road Safety Video and the adoption of the Guidelines are timely and appropriate, marking ASEAN's continuous efforts to create safer road transportation in the region for a new decade of 2021-2030, following the completion of the UN Decade of Action on Road Safety 2011-2020.

Towards Greater Maritime Transport Connectivity and Integration

13. The Ministers noted with appreciation on the completion of implementation of the ASEAN-Japan Cruise Promotion Strategy and lauded the activities conducted by ASEAN and Japan under the six pillars of the Strategy, which aims to promote pleasure cruises in the ASEAN-Japan area by offering culturally rich and high quality leisure activities. The Ministers expressed appreciation to Japan for its support for this initiative.

14. The Ministers welcomed the adoption of the Guidelines for Maintenance of Navigation Channels in ASEAN, which would provide optimum solutions to solve the siltation problems in ASEAN Ports and promote the effective use of navigation channels and anchorages. The Ministers thanked Japan for the technical assistance in the development of the Guidelines and urged ASEAN Member States to make use of this reference in prioritising their port dredging works to improve safety, promote environmental protection and enhance efficiency of the ports in ASEAN.

15. The Ministers also welcomed the adoption of the Guidelines for Safety Measures with Ships' Routeing, to serve as a reference for all ASEAN Member States in establishing laws and regulations related to establishment of ship's routeing system. The Ministers recognized the importance of ships routeing to promote safety of navigation, particularly noting the increasing trends of vessel traffic in ASEAN region.

Transport Cooperation with Dialogue Partners

16. With China, the Ministers noted the progress in the implementation of the initiatives, projects and activities under 2018-2020 Action Programme of the Revised Strategic Plan for ASEAN-China Transport Cooperation.

17. With EU, the Ministers were pleased to note the progress made in the negotiations of the ASEAN-EU Comprehensive Air Transport Agreement (CATA). With the view to further enhance air connectivity with EU, the Ministers encouraged the relevant working group to exert greater efforts to conclude the CATA negotiations expeditiously. The Ministers also expressed their appreciation to the EU for the support rendered under the ASEAN Regional Integration Support by the EU (ARISE) Plus Programme as well as the Enhanced Regional EU-ASEAN Dialogue Instrument (E-READI).

18. With Japan, the Ministers noted with satisfaction on the progress of implementation of the ASEAN-Japan Transport Partnership (AJTP) for 2019-2020, and welcomed the AJTP Work Plan for 2020-2021. On ASEAN-Japan Air Services (AJ-ASA) negotiations, the Ministers urged the relevant working group to work towards the successful conclusion of a

more liberal and mutually beneficial AJ-ASA with a view to enhancing the air transport relationship between ASEAN and Japan.

19. With New Zealand, the Ministers were encouraged by the notable progress in the negotiations of the ASEAN-New Zealand Air Services Agreement (ANZ-ASA), and urged the relevant working group to continue working closely towards the conclusion of ANZ-ASA to expand air connectivity between and beyond ASEAN and New Zealand.

20. With ROK, the Ministers were pleased to note the progress of implementation of the projects / activities in the ASEAN-ROK Transport Cooperation Roadmap 2018-2020, and welcomed the ASEAN-ROK Transport Cooperation Roadmap 2021 – 2025 which would further enhance cooperation in the areas of human resources development, development consulting, infrastructure feasibility study, as well as technology and management. On ASEAN-ROK Air Services Agreement (AK-ASA) negotiations, the Ministers encouraged the relevant working group to continue working towards the conclusion of AK-ASA including a more liberal and mutually beneficial traffic rights exchange.

The Twenty-Seventh ATM

21. The Ministers agreed to convene the Twenty-Seventh ATM Meeting in Cambodia in 2021.

22. The delegates from ASEAN Member States and the ASEAN Secretariat expressed their sincere appreciation to the Government and people of Brunei Darussalam for the excellent arrangements made for the Meeting.

LIST OF MINISTERS

- (a) H.E. Dato Seri Setia 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. Budi Karya Sumadi, Minister for Transportation of Indonesia;
- (d) H.E. Mr. Viengsavath Siphandone, Vice Minister of Public Works and Transport of Lao PDR;
- (e) H.E. Haji Hasbi Haji Habibollah, Deputy Minister of Transport of Malaysia;
- (f) H.E. Mr. Thant Sin Maung, Union Minister of Transport and Communications of Myanmar;
- (g) H.E. Mr. Arthur P. Tugade, Secretary of Transportation of the Philippines;
- (h) H.E. Mr. Ong Ye Kung, Minister for Transport of Singapore;
- (i) H.E. Mr. Saksayam Chidchob, Minister of Transport of Thailand;
- (j) H.E. Mr. Nguyen Van The, Minister of Transport of Viet Nam; and
- (k) H.E. Dato Lim Jock Hoi, Secretary General of ASEAN