

Chairman's Statement of the 15th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Science and Technology (AMMST-15)

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 12 November 2013

Introduction

1. The 15th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Science and Technology (AMMST-15) was held on 12 November 2013 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The Meeting was chaired by Honorable Datuk Dr. Ewon Ebin, Minister of Science, Technology, and Innovation, Malaysia and attended by Science and Technology Ministers and Senior Officials from Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam. The Deputy Secretary General of ASEAN and her staff were also in attendance.
2. Nine (9) meetings were convened prior to the 15th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Science and Technology as follows: (i) the 45th Meeting of the Sub-Committee on S&T Infrastructure and Resource Development (SCIRD-45) on 7 November 2013; (ii) the 23rd Meeting of the Advisory Body on the ASEAN Plan of Action on Science and Technology (ABAPAST-23), 8 November 2013; (iii) the 22nd Meeting of the Advisory Body of the ASEAN Science Fund (ABASF-22), 8 November 2013; (iv) the 66th Meeting of ASEAN Committee on Science and Technology (COST-66), 9 November 2013; (v) the 10th ASEAN-India Working Group on Science and Technology (AIWGST-10) on 10 November 2013; (vi) the 6th ASEAN-Russia Working Group on Science and Technology (ARWGST-6) on 10 November 2013; (vii) the 4th ASEAN-Japan Cooperation Committee on Science and Technology (AJCCST-4) on 11 November 2013; (viii) the 1st Meeting of the ASEAN-ROK Joint Science and Technology Committee on 11 November 2013; and (ix) the 7th ASEAN COST Plus Three Meeting on 11 November 2013.
3. The Ministers expressed their appreciation to Brunei Darussalam for its efforts as previous AMMST Chair in bringing to the attention of the AEC and ASCC Councils that the AMMST and COST shall remain under the purview of the AEC as indicated in Annex 1 of the ASEAN Charter. Noting, however, that science and technology (S&T) actions are reflected in the ASCC Blueprint, COST shall continue reporting to both AEC and ASCC Councils until end of 2015.

Development of the ASEAN Plan of Action on Science, Technology and Innovation (APASTI) 2015-2020

4. The Ministers noted the progress report of the development of the APASTI 2015-2020 and looked forward to the finalization and adoption of said plan of action at the 8th Informal ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Science and Technology (IAMMST-8) to be held next year in conjunction with the celebration of the 9th ASEAN Science and Technology Week in Bogor, Indonesia in August 2014.

5. The Ministers welcomed the planned launching of the ASEAN Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Challenges initiative. Call for innovation-focused proposals with funding support from the ASF shall be made and the announcement of grant recipients will be announced at the 67th Meeting of COST in April 2014 in Singapore.
6. The Ministers recalled that the feasibility of establishing the ASEAN Innovation Fund (AInF) will be part of the APASTI 2015-2020 development work. The Ministers, however, agreed that while awaiting the completion of the APASTI, an expert group meeting shall be convened to study the expansion of the scope of utilisation of the ASF to support innovation-driven projects and the rebranding of the ASEAN Trust Fund for Science and Technology (ASF) to the ASEAN Trust Fund for Science, Technology and Innovation (ASTIF).

Establishment of the ASEAN-NDI Secretariat

7. The Ministers agreed that the Philippines shall be the Secretariat of the ASEAN-Network for Drugs, Diagnostics, Vaccines and Traditional Medicine Innovation (ASEAN-NDI) initiative. The Ministers noted with appreciation the commitment of the Philippines to cover the cost associated with the operation and maintenance of the ASEAN-NDI Secretariat.

ASEAN Talent Mobility (ATM) Workshop

8. The Ministers approved the conduct of the ASEAN Talent Mobility (ATM) Workshop proposed by Thailand. The Ministers noted that the ATM Workshop aims to discuss policies and mechanisms to promote talent mobility in ASEAN and encourage international brain circulation, as well as, to explore the potential of developing an 'ASEAN Talent Mobility (ATM)' Programme as a platform for talent mobility among ASEAN and its partners. The Ministers agreed to utilise the ASF to implement this initiative.

Cooperation with Dialogue Partners

9. The Ministers noted the proposal of India to elevate its cooperation with ASEAN in science, technology and innovation to a strategic partnership through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The Ministers tasked the ABAPAST and the legal authorities of ASEAN to review the draft once it is made available.
10. The Ministers noted that while the APASTI 2015-2020 is being developed, the implementation of the Work Plan of the ASEAN-Russia Working Group on Science and Technology will be extended to 2015.
11. The Ministers expressed its appreciation to Japan for its support to the science and technology component of the Japan-East Asia Network of Exchange for Students and Youths (JENESYS 2.0) project and looked forward to implementation of this initiative. The Ministers noted that the initiative would allow 1800 students in S&T and related fields from ASEAN Member States to visit Japan to gain knowledge on Japan's strengths and attractions, and understanding the underlying values and efforts that enable Japan to achieve

such success; and to inspire and motivate the young generations to adopt practical ideas from the experience of Japan. The Ministers further noted the continued implementation of the e-ASIA Joint Research Programme.

12. The Ministers welcomed the ROK's initiative to further strengthen science and technology cooperation through the development of action plan on ASEAN STI initiatives which can contribute the implementation of the APASTI 2015-2020. The Ministers noted that the proposed scaling up of the strategies related to priority setting and program design for three technologies: Green Technology; Food Technology; and Water Technology will be reviewed by the SCIRD.
13. The Ministers welcomed the offer of China to expand the coverage of its Young Scientist Visiting Programme under the China-ASEAN Science and Technology Partnership (STEP) Programme to include JAPAN and the ROK. The Ministers also noted that China shall host the International S&T Partnership – 10+3 Innovation Forum - Integration of Innovation Elements and Participation of Private Sector next year in Nanning, China.
14. The Ministers noted the successful implementation of the various programmes under the ASEAN Plus Three Center for the Gifted in Science (ACGS) which is led by the ROK. The Ministers noted that the ACGS Consultative Meeting has been elevated to the ACGS Board of Directors (BOD) Meeting. The Ministers look forward to the successful conduct of the ACGS BOD Meeting on 25-28 November 2013 in Changwon, ROK as well as the forthcoming ASEAN Plus Three Teachers' Workshop and Student Camp for the Gifted in Science next year.
15. The Ministers noted the highlights of the 13th ASEAN Food Conference (AFC-13) which was held on 9-11 September 2013 in Singapore and the conduct of the following forthcoming events:
 - i. The World Innovation Forum Kuala Lumpur (WIFKL) 2013, 12-13 November 2013, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
 - ii. The 7th Meeting of the Board of Directors (BODs) of the ASEAN Plus Three Center for the Gifted in Science, 25-28 November 2013, Changwon, ROK;
 - iii. ASEAN Meeting on Grand Challenges in STI, 12-13 December 2013, Bangkok, Thailand;
 - iv. The ASEAN STI Days, 21-23 January 2014 in Bangkok, Thailand; and
 - v. 9th ASEAN Science and Technology Week, 18-28 August 2014, Bogor, Indonesia

Next Meeting of the ASEAN S&T Ministers

16. The Meeting noted that the 8th Informal ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Science and Technology (IAMMST-8) will be held in Indonesia on 25 August 2014.

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