

**Chairman's Statement of the 16th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting
on Science and Technology (AMMST-16)**

Vientiane, Lao PDR, 6 November 2015

1. The 16th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Science and Technology (AMMST-16) was held on 6 November 2015 in Vientiane, Lao PDR. The Meeting was chaired by H.E. Prof. Dr. Boviengkham VONGDARA, Minister of Science and Technology, Lao PDR and attended by Science and Technology Ministers and Senior Officials from Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam. The Deputy Secretary General of ASEAN and his staff were also in attendance.
2. Six (6) Meetings were convened prior to the 16th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Science and Technology. These Meetings are (i) The 48th Meeting of the Sub-Committee on S&T Infrastructure and Resource Development (SCIRD-48), 2 November 2015; (ii) the 27th Meeting of the Advisory Body on the ASEAN Plan of Action on Science and Technology (ABAPAST-27), 3 November 2015; (iii) the 26th Meeting of the Advisory Body of the ASEAN Science Fund (ABASF-26), 3 November 2015; (iv) the 70th Meeting of ASEAN Committee on Science and Technology (COST-70), 4 November 2015; (v) the 6th ASEAN-EU Dialogue on Science and Technology, 5 November 2015; and (vi) The 5th ASEAN-US Consultation on Science and Technology, 5 November 2015.

ASEAN Plan of Action on Science, Technology and Innovation (APASTI) 2016-2025

3. The Ministers adopted the ASEAN Plan of Action on Science, Technology and Innovation (APASTI) for the period 2016-2025. The Ministers highlighted the necessity and urgency for COST activities and programmes to be visible enough to get the attention and appreciation of the ASEAN Leaders. The Ministers further encouraged COST to implement activities and programmes under the APASTI that are supportive of both social and economic developments and consistent with the goals of the Post-2015 ASEAN Community.
4. The Ministers supported the recommendations of the APASTI in restructuring the COST through the merger of the Advisory Body of ASEAN Plan of Action on Science and Technology (ABAPAST) and the Advisory Body on ASEAN Science Fund (ABASF) to form the Board of Advisers to COST (BAC). The Ministers tasked the ASEAN Secretariat to formulate the Terms of Reference (TOR) of the BAC and ensure the BAC shall be a more dynamic and proactive body, and ensure the engagement of ASEAN private sectors.
5. The Ministers agreed that APASTI should be accompanied by an implementation plan that will include the priorities, targets/deliverables, specific actions, timelines, and indicators, to be derived from the work plans of COST subsidiary bodies.
6. The Ministers welcomed the setting up of an ASEAN Talent Mobility (ATM) Platform that would facilitate mobility of scientists and researchers in ASEAN and with partner countries. The Ministers tasked the BAC to develop mechanism on how to operationalise the ATM platform. The Ministers reaffirmed the importance to include specific actions and programmes such as S&T competency and skill framework for industry as part of talent mobility. The Ministers highlighted that the fostering of entrepreneurship for our young

generation must be implemented not only to meet the goals of APASTI but also to achieve the post-2015 ASEAN vision.

7. The Ministers noted that the discussion on the proposed establishment of ASEAN-ROK innovation Centre (ARIC) is currently ongoing. The Ministers also noted that the establishment of ARIC shall be a virtual network based.

ASEAN Science, Technology and Innovation Fund (ASTIF)

8. The Ministers noted that all ASEAN Member States have completed their contribution of USD 1 million to the fund.
9. The Ministers noted that the BAC shall make appropriate recommendations on the suitable financial instrument for ASTIF that can generate higher income with manageable risk. Meanwhile, the sum of USD 1 million shall be made available to support activities and programmes indicated in the APASTI 2016-2025.

Highlights of the Meetings with Dialogue Partners

European Union

10. The Ministers noted the outcome of the 6th ASEAN-EU Dialogue on Science and Technology held on 5 November 2015 in Vientiane, Lao PDR which include the updates on various initiatives such as Horizon 2020 priority areas including the new round of calls (2016-2017); Aquaculture, Global Research Collaboration for Infectious Disease Preparedness (GloPID-R), water research and the report on the Framework Conditions for Research and Innovation; and the upcoming E-READI initiative and the new Horizon 2020 International Cooperation Service Facility.
11. The Ministers also noted the outcome on the ASEAN Talent Mobility (ATM) Study and its recommendation to set up the ATM Platform. The Meeting agreed to synergize the existing activities of EURAXESS and ATM. The Meeting also noted that an ASEAN-EU co-funding mechanism may be explored.

Japan

12. The Ministers welcomed the new initiatives of Japan to conduct the various activities on Japan-ASEAN Joint Research Center (JRC); Japan-ASEAN STI Platform (JASTIP); and Japan-ASEAN Exchange Program for Young ASEAN Officials Working in STI.

Russia Federation

13. The Ministers noted the outcome of 7th ASEAN-Russia Working Group on Science and Technology (ARWGST-7) which was held on 23 September 2015 in Moscow, Russian Federation. The Ministers noted that the ASEAN-ROK Work Plan shall be developed taking into account APASTI priorities areas including the existing activities and programs implemented through bilateral and multilateral arrangements. The Ministers noted that the Energy Dialogue Workshop between Russia - ASEAN on Renewable Energy and Clean Energy Technologies shall be held on 18–20 November 2015 in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

Republic of Korea (ROK)

14. The Ministers noted the outcome of the 2nd Meeting of the ASEAN-ROK Joint Science and Technology Committee which was held on 19 October 2015 in Daejeon, ROK. The Ministers supported the development of ASEAN-ROK Work Plan taking into account APASTI priorities areas including the existing activities and programmes implemented through bilateral and multilateral arrangements. The Ministers noted the conduct of ASEAN-ROK STI Workshop in 2016 to discuss the ASEAN-ROK work programme and possible areas of cooperation.

The United States (U.S)

15. The Ministers noted the outcome of The 5th ASEAN-US Consultation on Science and Technology held on 5 November 2015 in Vientiane, Lao PDR. The Ministers further noted with appreciation the progress of the second year implementation of the ASEAN-US S&T Fellow Program. The Ministers also noted the thematic themes for the Fellowship Program 2016-2017 which include: (i) Sustainable Energy; (ii) Climate, Climate Change, Climate Variability; and (iii) Science, Technology and Innovation Policies.
16. The Ministers also noted the proposal from the U.S. to consider a possible institution that could host the Fellows Program after the end of the ASEAN-US PROGRESS project in 2018.
17. The Ministers welcomed and supported the future implementation of (i) ASEAN-US Young Southeast Asian Leadership Initiative (YSEALI) Innovation Challenge which is designed to give the youth (aged 18-35) the opportunity to identify science and technology (S&T) based solutions to challenges in food-related industries and (ii) ASEAN-US Prize for Women in Science.

ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation

18. The Ministers noted the outcome of the ASEAN Plus Three (APT) Ministerial Forum on STI held on 20 October 2015 as a side event of the OECD Ministerial Meeting in Daejeon, ROK which discussed STI policies and strategies including past efforts and achievements in ASEAN, China, Japan, and the ROK.
19. The Ministers also noted the award giving for two students from Indonesia and Singapore supported by ASEAN Plus Three Center for the Gifted in Science (ACGS) namely first Da Vinci Award and Scholarship given.

Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Related Activities/Events

20. The Ministers noted the highlights of the 14th ASEAN Food Conference in Manila, Philippines on 24-26 June 2015; The 4th ASEAN Plus Three Junior Science Odyssey in Serpong, Indonesia on 24-28 August 2015 as one of the initiatives of the ASEAN Plus Three Center for the Gifted in Science (ACGS); and the ASEAN-Russia cooperation projects on space technology and nano-biotechnologies.
21. The Ministers also noted the following forthcoming events:
 - i. ASEAN Crowdfunding Workshop;
 - ii. ASEAN Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Forum in August 2016 in Bangkok, Thailand; and

iii. ASEAN-EU STI Days, 10-12 May 2016, Hanoi, Viet Nam.

22. The Meeting welcomed and supported the conduct of Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Forum hosted by Thailand in August 2016. The Ministers noted the forum would create public awareness on the roles of STI for sustainable development and provide a platform for people-to-people networking in the ASEAN. The innovation eco-system shall not only be limited to scientists and researchers, but also extended to policy makers, business leaders, media leaders, young scientists, SMEs and start-ups. The Forum which will provide a platform for open and informal discussions on science, technology and innovation issues shall discuss regional development challenges. The Meeting further noted that that the forum shall be conducted every two years.

Cross-Sectoral Cooperation in ASEAN

23. The Ministers welcomed the proposed cooperation of ASEAN Network of Regulatory Bodies on Atomic Energy (ASEANTOM) and ASEAN Working Group on Water Resources Management under ASEAN Senior Officials on the Environment (ASOEN) and tasked the relevant COST Sub-Committees to discuss and explore possible collaboration on relevant issues.
24. The Ministers recognised the importance in defining appropriate STI indicators in the APASTI implementation plan in order to measure the progress of the implementation of APASTI taking into account various activities and programme implemented in the past few years.

Next Meeting of the ASEAN S&T Ministers

25. The Meeting noted that the 9th Informal ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Science and Technology (IAMMST-9), the 71st COST and other related meetings shall be held in Cambodia in the second half of 2016.

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