



THE NINTH CLMV ECONOMIC MINISTERS' MEETING
11 September 2017, Pasay City, Philippines

JOINT MEDIA STATEMENT

1. The Ninth Cambodia – Lao PDR – Myanmar – Viet Nam (CLMV) Economic Ministers' Meeting (EMM) was held on 11 September 2017 in Pasay City, Philippines. The Meeting was chaired by H.E. Kyaw Win, Union Minister for Planning and Finance, Myanmar.

2. The Ministers noted the favourable growth of combined CLMV's merchandise trade, not only in terms of trade value but also as percentage of ASEAN's total trade. In 2016, combined merchandise trade grew by 6.0%, amounting to US\$ 407.9 billion and contributed 18.2% to ASEAN's total trade, compared with 16.9% in 2014. Foreign direct investment into the four countries continued on an upward trend and grew by 8.9% in 2016, amounting to US\$18.9 billion. Contribution of the CLMV countries to the total inward direct investment to ASEAN increased from 14.3% in 2015 to 19.6% in 2016.

3. The Ministers were pleased with the progress in the implementation of the CLMV Action Plan 2017-2018. To-date, two trade fairs jointly organised by Viet Nam and Myanmar, a seminar on e-commerce in Nanning, China for CLMV officials from relevant Ministries and a veterinary volunteer project between Myanmar and Thailand were completed. Several capacity building projects to assist CLMV countries to meet their ASEAN regional commitments such as the setting up of National Single Window and integrating it with the ASEAN Single Window, improving the implementation of standards and conformance harmonisation measures, enhancing market access of SMEs and implementing the mutual recognition arrangements (MRAs), particularly on tourism and nursing, are on-going. The Ministers underscored the importance of national data for monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of the projects being undertaken. In this regard, the Ministers tasked the CLMV Senior Economic Officials to work closely with the relevant ASEAN sectoral bodies and related agencies in their respective capitals to address the data requirement.

4. The Ministers welcomed the Leaders' endorsement for the formulation of the Framework for CLMV Development, which aims to provide a unifying strategy for the CLMV countries to advance their economic development and strengthen coordination of CLMV sub-regional initiatives, during the 8th CLMV Summit held in Hanoi, Viet Nam in October 2016. The Ministers noted that the Leaders requested for the draft Framework to be submitted for their consideration at the 9th CLMV Summit in 2018. The Ministers commended the progress made to-date in formulating the Framework and tasked the CLMV Senior Economic Officials to ensure its timely completion. The Ministers expressed their appreciation to the Government of Germany for the financial support towards developing the Framework.

5. The Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to narrow the development gap among CLMV countries and with the remaining ASEAN Member States to ensure the benefits arising from regional economic integration are equally shared amongst its people. The Ministers thanked the ASEAN-6, Dialogue Partners, ASEAN Secretariat and external parties in advancing the economic development of CLMV countries.

LIST OF MINISTERS

- i. **Mr. Sim Sokheng**, Director General, Ministry of Commerce, Cambodia (representing H.E. Pan Sorasak, Minister of Commerce, Cambodia)
- ii. **Dr. Laohoua Cheuching**, Director General of Foreign Trade Policy, Ministry of Industry and Commerce, Lao PDR (representing H.E. Mrs. Khemmani Pholsena, Minister of Industry and Commerce, Lao PDR)
- iii. **H.E. Kyaw Win**, Union Minister for Planning and Finance, Myanmar
- iv. **H.E. Tran Quoc Khanh**, Vice Minister of Industry and Trade, Viet Nam (representing H.E. Tran Tuan Anh, Minister of Industry and Trade, Viet Nam)
- v. **H.E. Lim Hong Hin**, Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN for ASEAN Economic Community (representing H.E. Le Luong Minh, Secretary-General of ASEAN)