



**JOINT MEDIA STATEMENT OF THE 25TH MEETING
OF THE ASEAN DIRECTORS-GENERAL OF CUSTOMS
Phnom Penh, Cambodia, 25 – 27 May 2016**

1. The 25th Meeting of the ASEAN Directors-General of Customs was held from 25 to 27 May 2016 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. The Meeting was chaired by Dr. Kun Nhem, Director General of the General Department of Customs and Excise of Cambodia. All 10 ASEAN Member States and the ASEAN Secretariat attended the Meeting.
2. The Meeting reviewed the work of various ASEAN Customs committees/working groups. These include the Coordinating Committee on Customs, the Customs Procedures and Trade Facilitation Working Group, the Customs Enforcement and Compliance Working Group, the Customs Capacity Building Working Group and the ASEAN Single Window Steering Committee.
3. Key achievements during the past year include the (i) finalisation of the Text of the ASEAN Harmonised Tariff Nomenclature (AHTN) 2017, (ii) the formulation of the broad directions for customs activities encompassing the period of 2016-2025 and (iii) the identification of the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for Customs as mandated by the ASEAN Economic Ministers.
4. The Meeting subsequently endorsed the following:
 - a. The broad directions for customs activities encompassing the period of 2016 to 2025;
 - b. The ASEAN Secretariat's proposal on the way forward in developing the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) of Sectoral Work Plans for Customs;
 - c. The Proposals for the ASEAN Customs Transit System (ACTS) Central Management Team to be based in the ASEAN Secretariat to manage the ACTS Roll-out Phase and Long-Term Operations;
5. The Meeting also agreed to complete the final endorsement for the Text of the ASEAN Harmonised Tariff Nomenclature (AHTN) 2017 in the coming months.
6. The Meeting urged Member States to expedite the signing of the Protocol 2 (Designation of Frontier Posts) and the ratification of the Protocol 7 (Customs Transit System) as soon as possible, in order to work towards operationalising the ASEAN Framework Agreement on the Facilitation of Goods in Transit.
7. The Meeting noted the progress in the development of the ASEAN Single Window (ASW), notably the commencement of the live exchange of the electronic ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement (e-ATIGA) Certificate of Origin Form D information between Member States. The Protocol on the Legal Framework to Implement the ASW

(PLF), which governs the legal aspects of the eventual implementation of the ASW across Member States, is in the process of ratification by Member States. To date, three Member States have ratified the PLF.

8. The Meeting held consultation sessions with the Customs Administrations of China, Japan and Korea to strengthen Customs-to-Customs cooperation in the region.

9. The Meeting held consultation sessions with the US-ASEAN Business Council (US-ABC), the EU-ASEAN Business Council (EU-ABC) and the Conference of Asia-Pacific Express Carriers (CAPEC), to strengthen Customs-to-Business partnerships in the region.

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Issued on 27 May 2016

**At the end of the 25th Meeting of ASEAN Directors-General of Customs,
In Phnom Penh, Cambodia**