



JOINT MEDIA STATEMENT OF THE 26TH MEETING OF THE ASEAN DIRECTORS-GENERAL OF CUSTOMS

Bali, Indonesia, 16 – 18 May 2017

1. The 26th Meeting of the ASEAN Customs Directors-General was held from 16 to 18 May 2017 in Bali, Indonesia. The Meeting was chaired by Mr. Heru Pambudi, Director General of the Directorate General of Customs and Excise of the Republic of Indonesia. The Meeting was attended by all 10 ASEAN Member States and the ASEAN Secretariat.
2. The Meeting reviewed the work of the ASEAN Coordinating Committee on Customs (CCC), the Customs Procedures and Trade Facilitation Working Group (CPTFWG), the Customs Enforcement and Compliance Working Group (CECWG), the Customs Capacity Building Working Group (CCBWG) and the ASEAN Single Window Steering Committee (ASWSC).
3. The Meeting noted significant progress in the ASEAN customs integration, particularly in the following areas:
 - a. The endorsement of the latest version of ASEAN Harmonised Tariff Nomenclature (AHTN) 2017/1 in 2017 continued signifying efforts of ASEAN to work towards a uniformed classification of goods implemented by all ASEAN Customs with a view to promoting the simplification and facilitation of trade in the region. To date, five ASEAN Member States (AMS) have implemented AHTN 2017 while the remaining AMS are expediting their national procedures for early implementation.
 - b. The development of ASEAN Customs Transit System (ACTS) progressed steadily with the ad-referendum signing of the Protocol 2 (Designation of Frontier Posts) set out in ASEAN Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Goods in Transit (AFAFGIT). To date, 8 AMSs have already signed while the remaining AMSs will do so expeditiously. The other legal instrument, Protocol 7 (ASEAN Customs Transit System) has also been ratified by 5 AMSs. These instruments in combination with other relevant Protocols under AFAFGIT shall provide a solid legal foundation for the operationalization of the ACTS in ASEAN. The ACTS is a computerised customs management system under which the goods will be transported by road under a single customs regime instead of the current complex customs

procedures on goods in transit maintained by national customs administrations of AMSs.

- c. The ASEAN Single Window (ASW) also reached a new milestone in its development, notably the establishment of the Project Management Office (PMO) in the ASEAN Secretariat to manage the day-to-day operation of the ASW. Additional documents are being considered to be exchanged electronically in the ASW. Following the acceptance of the Message Implementation Guide and Process Specifications for both the electronic Phytosanitary (e-Phyto) Certificate and the ASEAN Customs Declaration Document (e-ACDD) in early 2017, the “live” exchange of the e-Phyto and e-ACDD in the production environment are targeted to take place by December 2017 and March 2018 respectively. This achievement will contribute to the full realization of the objectives of the ASW to expedite cargo clearance process, while reducing the cost and time of doing business in ASEAN.

4. The Meeting also endorsed the following:

- a. the Terms of Reference (TOR) on the Private Sector Engagement in ASEAN Customs Meeting which would provide clear guidelines to ASEAN Customs Committee, Working Groups and the Private Sector; and
- b. the Strategic Actions Plan – Key Performance Indicators (SAP-KPIs) of Customs to monitor overall outcomes of Customs broad directions for 2016-2025 by measuring significant changes and benefits from the delivery of outputs and activities.

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

6. The Meeting held consultation sessions with the EU-ASEAN Business Council (EUABC) and the US-ASEAN Business Council (USABC) to strengthen Customs-to-Business partnerships in the region.

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Issued on 18 May 2017

**At the end of the 26th Meeting of ASEAN Directors-General of Customs,
in Bali, Indonesia**