

Joint Ministerial Statement of the 9th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Youth (AMMY IX)

**04 June 2015
Siem Reap, Cambodia**

“Young People – Building ASEAN Community”

1. The Ninth ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Youth (AMMY IX) was convened on 4 June 2015 in Siem Reap, Cambodia. AMMY IX was preceded by the Preparatory Senior Officials Meeting for the 9th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Youth (Prep-SOM for AMMY IX) held on 2 June 2015 in Siem Reap.
2. The theme of Cambodia’s AMMY/SOMY Chairmanship is “Young People – Building ASEAN Community”, reflecting the acknowledgement and recognition of the role of youth in the realisation of a prosperous ASEAN Community, where at the same time it is in line with the directions given by the AMMY VIII held on 22 May 2013 in Bandar Seri Begawan.
3. The Meeting was officially opened by His Excellency Dr. Hang Chuon Naron, Minister of Education, Youth and Sport of Kingdom of Cambodia. In his opening address, he further emphasised the role of SOMY towards youth development and engagement in the process of ASEAN integration and community building. To that aim, the ASEAN youth sector will continue to promote a Community that recognizes the importance of youth as the future of ASEAN, and one with an enhanced awareness of ASEAN as a region. He further affirmed the readiness of Cambodia to guide SOMY to achieve closer and greater partnership with youth towards an ASEAN Community that is people-oriented and people-centered.
4. The Ministers further stressed that the policy made today shall influence and enable future leaders to contribute to socio-economic development. Therefore, ASEAN must adopt a more holistic approach toward the development of young people in the productive workforce and civic engagement at national and regional level. In addition, ASEAN Member States should keep track on the evaluation of the outcomes and effectiveness of youth initiatives through the establishment of a youth development index, and provide the right environment for young people to participate in, and benefit from ASEAN Community building.
5. The Ministers acknowledged the progress made under the ASEAN Cooperation in Youth in support of the 15 action lines that have been identified in the ASCC Blueprint to ensure that the youth sector would contribute to the ASEAN Community building process. In this regard, they highlighted the promotion of ASEAN Awareness, strengthening entrepreneurship skills and values for youth, leadership development and education, and youth volunteerism remain as the cornerstones of youth development in ASEAN.
6. The Ministers acknowledged that 2015 is a landmark year for ASEAN and noted the importance of having an ASEAN 5-Year Work Plan on Youth 2016-2020 to deepen and widen existing activities/initiatives on youth in the region and beyond, based on the SOMY/AMMY Post 2015 key elements. In this regard, they noted the indicative time line for

the formulation of the Work Plan by conducting the workshop prior to submission to SOMY for endorsement and AMMY for the adoption within this year.

7. The Ministers reiterated their endorsement and noted the progress of the establishment of an ASEAN Youth Programme Fund (AYPF) to further support ASEAN youth development and partnership.

8. The Ministers expressed their appreciation to SOMY's continuous effort to facilitate and promote greater awareness of ASEAN amongst youth, and engage them through various platforms, thus contributing to greater understanding and closer ties within the ASEAN Community. With regard to volunteerism, they noted with appreciation the conduct of the ASEAN Youth Volunteers Programme (AYVP) initiated by Malaysia and ASEAN Young Professionals Volunteer Corps (AYPVC) initiated by Brunei Darussalam in accordance with the spirit of ASEAN cooperation and cordiality.

9. The Ministers noted that various youth projects/programmes related to people-to-people connectivity are continuously implemented with the support and participation of ASEAN Dialogue Partners.

10. The Ministers welcomed Indonesia as the forthcoming Chairman and agreed to meet again at AMMY X in Indonesia in 2017.

11. The Ministers expressed their appreciation to the Kingdom of Cambodia for the warm hospitality and excellent arrangements made in hosting the AMMY IX and its related Meetings.
