

ASEAN Plus Three Tourism Youth Summit 2016

# DUMAGUETE YOUTH DECLARATION

## ON TOURISM FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Dumaguete, The Philippines, 24 June 2016

We, the young people gathered here in Dumaguete, The Philippines on 24 June 2016 at the ASEAN Plus Three Tourism Youth Summit, express our commitment to achieving sustainable development in the tourism industry.

We express our gratitude to the Philippine Department of Tourism for their concerted effort and leadership in the initiative, and for hosting this ASEAN Plus Three Tourism Youth Summit, more so in their commitment to empowering the youth and broadening our participation in the tourism industry.

With this Declaration, we present a common vision and purpose towards a strengthened understanding of the youth's role in seeking sustainable and inclusive tourism development in the ASEAN Plus Three Countries. In this regard, we;

*Build* on the principles of the Charter of the Association of South East Asian Nations and acknowledge that one of its main purposes is to promote sustainable development in the region;

*Refer* to the need to recognize and support the role of youth in the implementation of the ASEAN Plus Three Tourism Cooperation Work Plan, ASEAN Tourism Strategic Plan, the ASEAN Economic Community and ASEAN Cooperation on Environment;

*Recognize* that we, the Youth, are engaged in creating a competitive, sustainable and inclusive community;

*Note* the United Nations declaration of the International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development 2017;

*Acknowledge* the ongoing work of the ASEAN Member States, Plus Three Countries, and organizations to engage youth in tourism development;

*Further acknowledge* the efforts of ASEAN Plus Three Tourism Ministers in strengthening regional cooperation in the tourism industry with the Memorandum of Cooperation on ASEAN Plus Three Tourism Cooperation, signed on 22 January 2016 in Manila;

*Call on* the ASEAN Plus Three National Tourism Organizations, governmental and non-governmental organizations, associations and agencies including youth-led

civil society to partner with us to ensure the implementation of the following action points:

## **1. YOUTH PARTICIPATION AND LEADERSHIP ON ISSUES OF TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY IN THE ASEAN PLUS THREE**

- Better education for the Youth.
- Involvement of the Youth in the development of sustainable tourism policies.
- Strengthening the role of Youth as ambassadors for responsible tourism development.
- Urge the government to impose laws more strictly, especially for tourism development and sustainability.

## **2. FOSTERING UNITY AND EXPANDING NETWORK OF THE ASEAN PLUS THREE YOUTH**

- Create new channels for the Youth to share insights and exchange dreams.
- Reaching-out to other dialogue partners to expand cooperation.
- Continuation of the ASEAN Plus Three Tourism Youth Summit as engine of Youth development.

As part of the ASEAN Plus Three people, we, the Youth, commit to work together with all stakeholders in order to build a sustainable and inclusive ASEAN Plus Three tourism industry. We commit to monitoring the implementation of these action points through our respective National Tourism Organizations.

The ASEAN Plus Three Tourism Youth Summit 2016 was convened for its first part in Siquijor Island then transferring to Dumaguete, The Philippines, all from 19 to 25 of June, 2016. The Summit is geared towards sustaining the productive and competitive spirit of the ASEAN Plus Three Youth with the theme: "Scenes. Senses. ASEAN Spirit.". The theme encapsulates the rekindling of the youth with 'community and nature'.

These activities are pursuant to the ASEAN Plus Three Tourism Cooperation Work Plan 2013 – 2017 adopted during the 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting of ASEAN, China, Japan and ROK Tourism Ministers in January 2013 in Vientiane, Lao PDR, wherein the Philippines and Thailand were selected as the lead country coordinators on the convening of an ASEAN Plus Three Tourism Students Summit.