



**Joint Press Statement
of the Thirteenth Meeting of the ASEAN Directors-
General Of Immigration Departments and Heads
of Consular Affairs Divisions of Ministries of
Foreign Affairs (DGICM)
17-18 November 2009
Manila, the Philippines**

1. The 13th Meeting of the ASEAN Directors-General of Immigration Departments and Heads of Consular Affairs Divisions of Ministries of Foreign Affairs (DGICM) was held on 17-18 November 2009 in Manila, the Philippines. It was chaired by Commissioner Marcelino C. Libanan of the Bureau of Immigration, the Philippines, and was attended by the Directors-General of Immigration and Heads of Consular Affairs Divisions of Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the ASEAN Member States, representatives of the ASEAN Secretariat, and DGICM's dialogue partner from Australia, as well as international organizations, namely the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the ICPO-Interpol.
2. The Meeting reviewed the progress on the realization of the Work Programme to Implement the ASEAN Plan of Action on Immigration Matters adopted in 2002, and noted the updates on implementation of the ASEAN Framework Agreement on Visa Exemption, as well as updated the ASEAN and Consular Websites.
3. The Meeting also noted the ASEAN Secretariat's suggestion to publicize for greater public awareness of the existing visa exemption arrangements, which facilitate ASEAN Member States' nationals to travel to most countries within the ASEAN region without the need of applying for visas prior to departure.
4. The Meeting agreed to further prepare for implementation of the Guidelines for the Provision of Emergency Assistance by ASEAN Missions in 3rd Countries to Nationals of ASEAN Member States and noted the status of the ASEAN-EU Consolidated Migration and Border Management Programme.

5. The Meeting also noted the report of the 5th ASEAN Immigration Intelligence Forum (AIIF) held on 16 November 2009 in Manila, the Philippines. The Meeting commended the important role of the AIIF in sharing immigration intelligence information among ASEAN Member States and its efforts in drafting the Terms of Reference (ToR) for Real-time Information Sharing on Lost and Stolen Passports and other documents.
6. Delegations from the ASEAN Member States shared their experiences and recent developments achieved in relation to the security of travel documents. The delegates also shared and presented recent developments in their immigration programs and policies on border control and security management.
7. The Meeting discussed the recent technological immigration programs and facilities with the DGICM Australia Dialogue Partner and welcomed the opportunities for bilateral and multilateral cooperation.
8. The Meeting reiterated the need for strengthening collaboration and cooperation on immigration – among ASEAN Member States and between ASEAN and its Dialogue Partners, regional and international organizations.
9. The Meeting welcomed the offer by the Union of Myanmar to host the 14th DGICM in 2010; the date and venue would be consulted among ASEAN Member States in due course.
10. The Meeting was held in the traditional spirit of ASEAN solidarity and cordiality. The Meeting expressed gratitude to the warm hospitality accorded by the Government and the people of the Republic of the Philippines.

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