

Joint Media Statement

11th Meeting of the ASEAN Directors-General of Immigration Departments and Heads of Consular Affairs Divisions of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs (DGICM)

11-12 December 2007, Vientiane, Lao PDR

1. The 11th Meeting of the Directors-General of Immigration Departments and Heads of Consular Affairs Divisions of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs (DGICM) was held from 11-12 December 2007 in Vientiane, Lao PDR. It was chaired by Mr Damdy Ouanmanivong, and was attended by representatives of ASEAN Member Countries and the ASEAN Secretariat.
2. The Meeting reviewed the progress of the realization of the Work Programme to implement the ASEAN Plan of Action on Immigration Matters adopted in 2002. The Meeting noted the updates on issues related to immigration, border control management and cooperation activities among the ASEAN Member countries such as immigration training, information sharing and the implementation of priority integration sectors of the ASEAN Economic Community which are related to the work of the Departments of Immigration.
3. The Meeting also discussed the implementation of the Guidelines for the Provision of Emergency Assistance by ASEAN Missions in Third Countries to Nationals of ASEAN Member Countries in Crisis Situation, which was endorsed by the ASEAN Foreign Ministers at the 40th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting held in Manila in July 2007. The Meeting agreed to form a Technical Working Group to study and recommend possible measures on implementing the provisions of the Guidelines.
4. ASEAN Member Countries shared their experiences in further enhancing the effectiveness of immigration management and cooperation. The Meeting noted with satisfaction the Member Countries' progress on Biometric passports and e-visas implementation.
5. The Meeting reaffirmed the need for strengthening collaboration and cooperation on immigration related issues with ASEAN Dialogue Partners, as well as regional and international organizations. The Meeting held the 3rd ASEAN DGICM + Australia Consultation to discuss and further explore areas of more tangible cooperation. The Meeting was pleased to note the successful convening of the ASEAN-Australia Workshop on Immigration Training Cooperation held in Singapore on 27-29 August 2007.

6. The Meeting welcomed the offer by Malaysia to host the 12th DGICM in 2008. ASEAN Member Countries will be informed in due course of the date and venue of the Meeting.

7. The Meeting was held in the traditional spirit of ASEAN solidarity and cordiality. Delegates expressed their gratitude for the warm hospitality rendered and excellent arrangements made for the Meeting by the people and the Government of Lao PDR.
