



## THE NINTH ASEAN MINISTERIAL MEETING ON MINERALS (9<sup>th</sup> AMMIN)

21 - 24 November 2023, Phnom Penh, Cambodia

### JOINT MEDIA STATEMENT

1. The 9<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Minerals (AMMin) and its Associated Meetings and Events were held on 21 – 23 November 2023 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. The 9<sup>th</sup> AMMin was officiated by H.E. Keo Rottanak, Minister of Mines and Energy of Cambodia, under the theme “*Promoting ASEAN as a Sustainable Minerals Investment Destination*”. It was preceded by the 23<sup>rd</sup> ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Minerals (ASOMM), the 16<sup>th</sup> ASOMM Plus Three Consultation and the 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Board of Judges for the ASEAN Mineral Awards. The 9<sup>th</sup> AMMin High-Level Dialogue and the Awarding Ceremonies for the 3<sup>rd</sup> ASEAN Minerals Awards (AMA) were also held in conjunction.

#### **Declaration on Promoting ASEAN as an Investment Destination for Sustainable Minerals Development**

2. The 9<sup>th</sup> AMMin adopted the *Declaration on Promoting ASEAN as an Investment Destination for Sustainable Minerals Development*, which affirmed ASEAN's shared commitment to develop its mineral resources and contribute to securing an adequate and steady supply of metals and minerals to meet rising minerals demand and to fuel industrial expansion across ASEAN while encouraging responsible sourcing of mineral inputs and products to boost the region's competitiveness and continued access to global markets.

3. The Declaration highlighted the opportunities arising from the shifting trends of global minerals demand and the expected intensity of minerals use that are driven by the global transition towards low carbon technologies and the demands of the twin energy and digital revolutions, in addition to meeting the continuing material needs of modern economic growth. The Meeting directed the ASEAN Senior Officials on Minerals (ASOMM) and its Working Groups to develop an ASEAN Mining Vision to chart the progressive development of ASEAN as a regional investment destination, potentially contributing to diversifying global supply chains.

#### **Opportunities and Challenges of Developing Critical Minerals Value Chains in the Region**

4. Mindful of the need to enhance the quality and availability of pre-competitive geoscience data to potential investors, which is critical to attracting and promoting exploration investments into the region, the Meeting endorsed the *ASEAN Minerals Exploration Strategy (version 1: 2023)* or AMEXS-1. The AMEXS-1 seeks to provide

a coordinated set of strategies for improving geological prospectivity in ASEAN from the investor's perspective, including a specific plan to collect and process the data that underpins the information base for marketing exploration in ASEAN. The Meeting noted that the AMEXS-1's effectiveness will depend on actions taken by ASEAN Member States at the national level, on the implementation by ASEAN as a group at the regional level, and on support from partners and industry stakeholders. In this regard, the Meeting tasked ASOMM and the relevant Working Groups to ensure the successful implementation of the AMEXS-1, particularly in data provision, monitoring and update, and making these data available through an enhanced ASEAN Minerals Information System.

5. The Meeting welcomed the conduct of the Joint Study with the Intergovernmental Forum on Mining, Minerals, Metals and Sustainable Development (IGF) on *Critical Minerals Value Chains for ASEAN's Transition to A Low Carbon Future*, which aims to identify enabling policy areas to support the development of selected critical minerals value chains to support ASEAN countries in contributing to the transition to a low-carbon future. The Meeting noted that the Scoping Study, which was finalised in May 2023, presents the state of ASEAN's critical minerals value chains, including recommendations and pathways for the ASEAN Member States and ASEAN to take advantage of essential minerals to enhance their own industrial production and exports further while contributing to heightened adoption of energy transition and digital technologies, the creation of new, higher-skilled green jobs and increased R&D. The Meeting looked forward to the finalisation of the deep-dive study, including bringing strategic recommendations into the future ASEAN Mining Vision and integrating these into the priority activities that implement the recently adopted ASEAN Strategy for Carbon Neutrality and Framework for Circular Economy for the ASEAN Economic Community.

6. The Meeting emphasised the need to step up cooperation to integrate all ASEAN Member States into regional value chains and to reinforce the region's attractiveness as a minerals trade and investment destination. The Meeting noted the various minerals-related investments across the region and developments beyond, such as on electric vehicles, batteries and solar PVs, materials for renewable energy technologies, semiconductors and fertilisers and recycling opportunities. The Meeting further noted that the ASEAN Member States that already have robust existing critical minerals production capacities and have successfully entered regional and global markets can additionally work with emerging ASEAN countries that are still developing their mineral and manufacturing sectors to build synergies and mutual advantage, including to enable access to financing and investments from more mature ASEAN capital markets.

### **Ensuring Responsible Production and Sourcing of Minerals**

7. To progressively improve the governance, economic, social and environmental outcomes of the minerals and mining sector in the region, the Meeting adopted the *ASEAN Principles on Sustainable Minerals Development* (ASEAN SMD Principles). The principles demonstrate ASEAN's will to improve the mining industry's sustainability as a group at the regional level and individually at the national level. The Meeting agreed that the principles will be part of the future thrusts of the ASEAN

Minerals cooperation sector and will be a building block in developing the long-term ASEAN Mining Vision for post-2025.

8. The Meeting appreciated the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) for its support towards the adoption of the ASEAN SMD Principles and called upon international and multilateral organisations to resume engagement and assistance towards minerals resource development and towards sustainably managing extractive industries. In particular, the Meeting thanked ESCAP for its support in the (i) successful conduct of the consultation and capacity building Workshop on Stakeholder Engagement and Support for ASEAN Principles on Sustainable Minerals Development held on 29 – 30 August 2023, in Putrajaya, Malaysia; and, (ii) the development of a draft Policy Brief and initial Stakeholder Engagement Plan to assess approaches and future activities towards widening the stakeholder engagement process in the ASEAN minerals sector as well as to assess the ASEAN SMD Principles in comparison to other relevant policies and industry tools. The Meeting looked forward to more collaboration with ESCAP.

9. To honour mining and minerals processing companies operating in the region that have contributed to promoting environmentally and socially sustainable minerals development in ASEAN, the Meeting congratulated the *3<sup>rd</sup> ASEAN Mineral Awards* winners. Fourteen (14) companies engaged in Mining, Processing, and Distribution under metallic and non-metallic categories are recognised for best practices in their respective operations, ranging from productivity and resource efficiency improvements, energy efficiency, use of blended biofuels and solar power, innovative recycling and waste management, health and safety and employee welfare programs, contributions to host communities, and environmental management and rehabilitation initiatives. The awardees include one (1) from Brunei Darussalam, one (1) from Cambodia, four (4) from Indonesia, three (3) from Lao PDR, two (2) from Malaysia, and three (3) from the Philippines.

### **Widening Stakeholder Engagement and Participation**

10. Acknowledging the importance of widening stakeholder engagement and inclusiveness in the ASEAN minerals cooperation and development, the Meeting congratulated Cambodia for the successful conduct of the High-Level Policy Dialogue on 23 November 2023. The High-Level Dialogue organised within the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Minerals cooperation platform sought to facilitate initial engagement among ASEAN government and stakeholders, such as with international organisations, businesses and the private sector, to discuss and exchange views on challenges and opportunities in the region's minerals development, including on critical minerals, as well as to discuss recommendations towards enhancing ASEAN as a sustainable minerals investment destination.

11. The Meeting welcomed Indonesia's plan to organise an in-person ASEAN Minerals Business and Stakeholders Forum in conjunction with the 24<sup>th</sup> ASOMM and its associated meetings/events to be held in Q4 of 2024. The Meeting encouraged future ASOMM and AMMin host countries to continue widening the minerals sector's stakeholder engagement, including with mining professionals, universities, and specialised geoscientific and mining institutions.

## Advancing the ASEAN Minerals Cooperation

12. The Meeting commended the work of ASOMM and its Working Groups in advancing ASEAN minerals cooperation to create a vibrant and competitive ASEAN minerals sector for the well-being of ASEAN peoples. The Meeting noted with satisfaction the progress made in implementing the ASEAN Minerals Cooperation Action Plan (AMCAP-III) Phase 2: 2021-2025 since their last meeting in 2021.

13. On **Trade and Investment in Minerals**, the Meeting welcomed the findings and recommendations from the ASEAN internal *Study on Building Policy Prospectivity: Defining Policy, Regulation and Governance Standards to Attract Exploration Investments*, finalised in April 2022, which was part of the project on Strengthening ASEAN Cooperation in Minerals supported by the ASEAN-Australia Development Cooperation Programme 2.0. Based on the impediments to investment and barriers to sustainable minerals development identified by the Study, the Meeting noted the plan under the Working Group on Trade and Investment in Minerals (WGTIM) to develop a project concept for the establishment of Multi-Stakeholders Focus Groups (MSFGs) to support the development of policy framework and action plan for policy improvement in minerals regulation in ASEAN.

14. As a promotional tool to provide information that explains the strengths and attractiveness of mineral potentials of each ASEAN Member State and ASEAN as a whole, the Meeting noted the effort under the WGTIM to develop an ASEAN Minerals Investment Guidebook. The Meeting likewise noted the invitation extended by Singapore to the Resource Connect Asia held hybrid on 5-6 April 2023 in Singapore, which was widely participated by ASEAN Member States. The Meeting also looked forward to implementing the ASEAN+3 Technical Workshop and Capacity Building Programme on Critical Minerals Development in 2024 in the Republic of Korea (ROK).

15. On **Sustainable Minerals Development**, the Meeting noted the ongoing work under the Working Group on Sustainable Minerals Development (WGSMD) to develop a draft publication on Non-Financial Incentives for Sustainable Mining Development in ASEAN Member States. The document will serve as part of the efforts to strengthen the promotion of sustainable minerals development by identifying shared incentive practices and adopting such schemes in regional settings.

16. The Meeting was pleased with the conduct of various online activities jointly organised with the IGF to further promote sustainable minerals development in the region, including the ASEAN-IGF Mining and Sustainability Forum held on 25 November 2022 back-to-back with the 22<sup>nd</sup> ASOMM which focused on Critical Minerals for ASEAN Low Carbon Future and on Mining and Climate Change, and, the ASEAN-IGF knowledge exchange on Post-Mining and Relinquishment held in conjunction with the 9<sup>th</sup> Joint Working Group (JWG) Meeting on 14 March 2023.

17. The Meeting remained committed to building ASEAN's capacity and institutional effectivity; as such, the Meeting noted the adoption of the *Work Programme on Improving ASEAN Capacities in Minerals Governance*, which aims to improve ASEAN's capacity in minerals governance to promote leading practices that will attract investment and result in responsibly-produced mining products. The Meeting noted ASOMM's agreement to prioritise three (3) specific areas to improve

ASEAN's capacities in minerals governance, namely (i) minerals development policy, (ii) minerals regulation and oversight, and (iii) sustainable minerals development.

18. The Meeting noted the efforts of individual lead countries to develop project concepts to implement various capacity building which support minerals development activities on trade and investment, sustainability and information systems.

19. On the efforts of the Working Group on **Minerals Information System** (WGMID) to enhance the ASEAN Minerals Information System, the Meeting noted ASOMM's endorsement for the establishment of sub-working groups under the WGMID, which will be in charge of content arrangements and provisions for the AMIS' three platforms, namely: Landing Page Sub-Working Group (LP-SWG), Web-GIS Sub-Working Group (GIS-SWG) and AMCAP Online Collaboration System (AOCP-SWG). The final Terms of References of the three Sub-Working Groups, adopted by the WGMID on 13 September 2023, include the initial list of contents to be further deliberated for uploading in the enhanced AMIS.

### **Fostering Minerals Cooperation with Partners**

20. With the Plus Three Countries (China, Japan and the Republic of Korea), the Meeting welcomed the adoption of the *ASEAN+3 Minerals Cooperation Work Plan 2022-2025*, which serves as a blueprint to intensify cooperation between ASEAN and the Plus Three Countries to foster cooperation in sustainable minerals development, implement leading practices, promote trade and investment in minerals, and support the development of new strategies and effective tools for collecting and processing data for the AMIS and to fulfil the requirements of the ASEAN Minerals Exploration Strategy.

21. The Meeting noted with satisfaction the progress of cooperation with the IGF. They welcomed the adoption of the *ASEAN-IGF Minerals Cooperation Work Plan 2022-2024* to implement the collaboration between ASOMM and the IGF to support the implementation of AMCAP-III Phase 2: 2021-2025, including the continuation of the annual ASEAN-IGF Mining and Sustainability Forum, organisation of policy dialogues, joint research on specific topics, studies and analysis on country level barriers to certain ASEAN Member States, etc.

22. The Meeting also welcomed the 4-year Capacity Building Programme on Critical Minerals Management and Strategy for Sustainable Environment in ASEAN developed with the Coordinating Committee for Geoscience Programmes in East and Southeast Asia (CCOP) and Korea Institute of Geoscience and Mineral Resources (KIGAM). Project activities are expected to start in early 2024, including critical mineral market analysis, compilation and initial updating of minerals distribution maps and pre-existing documents inventory, and establishment of critical minerals databases in the ASEAN Member States in line with the AMIS enhancement project. The Meeting looked forward to the successful implementation of the programme.

23. The Meeting noted the continuous interactions between ASOMM and its relevant working groups with the ASEAN Federation of Mining Associations (AFMA) to promote cooperation, dialogue and exchange of information among government and the private sector to advance regional minerals development. The Meeting

encouraged AFMA to intensify their work in seeking creative options to promote further trade and investment in the ASEAN minerals sector.

**Next AMMin**

24. The Meeting expressed their sincere appreciation to the Government and People of the Kingdom of Cambodia for the hospitality accorded to the delegations and the excellent arrangements made for the 9<sup>th</sup> AMMin and Associated Meetings and Events.

25. The Meeting looked forward to the convening of the 24<sup>th</sup> ASOMM in 2024 in Indonesia and the 10<sup>th</sup> AMMin in 2025.

---