



**JOINT STATEMENT
THE FOURTEENTH ASEAN PLUS THREE LABOUR MINISTERS MEETING
(14th ALMM+3)**

27 AUGUST 2026, BANGKOK, THAILAND

1. The 14th ASEAN Plus Three Labour Ministers Meeting (14th ALMM+3) was held on 27 August 2026 in Bangkok, Thailand, and chaired by H.E. Julapun Amornvivat, Minister of Labour of Thailand. The Meeting was attended by the Labour Ministers/Heads of Delegation of Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste, and Viet Nam as well as Plus Three Countries from China, Japan, and the Republic of Korea who attended in person and Cambodia who attended virtually, as well as the Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN for ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community, and their respective accompanying delegations.

Exchange of Views on the Theme “Advancing ASEAN Human Capital: Skills Certification towards Global Recognition”

2. We exchanged views on the theme “Advancing ASEAN Human Capital: Skills Certification towards Global Recognition” and recognised that rapid technological change, the transition towards greener and digital economies, demographic shifts, evolving global supply chains, and labour migration were reshaping the demand and supply of skills across the region. We underscored the importance of accessible and high-quality skills development programmes, credible competency assessment and certification systems, stronger quality assurance, and closer engagement with employers’ and workers’ organisations. We consented to deepen cooperation among the ASEAN Plus Three Countries to facilitate lifelong learning, strengthen the comparability and quality assurance of skills and qualifications, advance mutual recognition and qualifications, and support an inclusive, productive, and future-ready workforce.

3. We also underscored the importance of strengthening labour market information and closer linkages between skills development, training institutions, public employment services, and industry needs, so that skills development and certification remain responsive to current and emerging labour market demands.

ASEAN Community-Building and Regional Developments

4. We welcomed the adoption of ASEAN 2045: Our Shared Future at the 46th ASEAN Summit in May 2025, comprising the ASEAN Community Vision 2045 and the Strategic Plans of the ASEAN Political-Security Community (APSC), ASEAN Economic Community (AEC), ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC), and ASEAN Connectivity. We reaffirmed our support for its effective and coordinated

implementation towards a resilient, innovative, dynamic, and people-centred ASEAN by 2045. We also recognised the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific as an important guide for ASEAN's engagement with external partners and encouraged practical cooperation in its priority areas, consistent with ASEAN Centrality.

5. We warmly welcomed Timor-Leste as the eleventh Member State of ASEAN following the signing of the Declaration on the Admission of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste into ASEAN on 26 October 2025. We congratulated the Government and people of Timor-Leste on this historic milestone and welcomed Timor-Leste's active participation in the ASEAN Plus Three labour cooperation.

Status of ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation on Labour

6. We welcomed the completion of the ASEAN Plus Three Senior Labour Officials Meeting (SLOM+3) Work Plan 2021–2025 and committed to fully implement the SLOM+3 Work Plan 2026–2030 following its adoption ad-referendum by the ALMM+3 in April 2026. We consented to enhance cooperation in the areas of high-quality and full employment; human resource development including reskilling and upskilling in response to AI, digitalisation, automation and emerging opportunities in the green, blue, creative, and care economies; strengthened protection for paid domestic and care workers; the use of technology to prepare for the future of work; sustainable and inclusive social security systems, including extension of coverage to workers in the informal and platform economies; occupational safety and health; the protection and promotion of labour rights, including the rights of migrant workers and workers in vulnerable situations; tripartism and social dialogue; and corporate social responsibility in labour.

7. We expressed full support for the implementation of the new ASEAN Labour Ministers' Work Programme 2026–2030 and the Work Plans of its Subsidiary Bodies through policy dialogue, research, capacity-building, technical cooperation, innovation, and sharing of good practices among the ASEAN Plus Three Countries.

8. We appreciated China's continued support through the ILO–China Project on Strengthening Skills Development in Cambodia, Lao PDR, and Myanmar through South-South and Triangular Cooperation; the Project on Promoting the Global Development Initiative with a Focus on South-South Cooperation in Employment in ASEAN (ProSSCE-ASEAN); and regional exchanges on employment, human resource development, skills development, occupational safety and health, and social security. We encouraged continued cooperation that responds to evolving labour-market needs and supports decent work and inclusive employment.

9. We appreciated Japan's continued support to the Phase 3 of the Expanded Application of the ASEAN Guiding Principles for Strengthening Quality Assurance and Recognition of Competency Certification Systems (AGP) Project under the Japan–ASEAN Integration Fund, as well as technical cooperation provided through the ILO/Japan Multi-bilateral Programme and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). We also appreciated the continued implementation of the ASEAN and Japan High-Level Officials Meeting (HLOM) on Caring Societies, including its 23rd Meeting in 2025 and upcoming 24th Meeting in 2026, which strengthen cross-sectoral cooperation on health, labour and social welfare in responding to ageing societies and demographic change.

10. We appreciated the Republic of Korea's (ROK) continued support to ASEAN initiatives on human resource development, technical and vocational education and training, labour market information, digital transformation and the future of work. We welcomed the continued implementation of the annual ASEAN Plus Three Human Resource Development Forum, ASEAN-ROK Industry-Aligned TVET Mobility Programme, and Training Programme on OSH. We encouraged sustained cooperation to equip workers and enterprises with skills for digital, green, and demographic transitions.

11. Looking ahead, we committed to translate our shared priorities into concrete and mutually beneficial cooperation under the SLOM+3 Work Plan 2026–2030. We encouraged the ASEAN Plus Three Senior Labour Officials, with the support of the ASEAN Secretariat, to explore concrete cooperation and synergies with relevant stakeholders. We called for sustainable partnerships, adequate resources, and regular monitoring to ensure that our initiatives deliver tangible results. We encouraged closer coordination among the relevant ASEAN Plus Three sectoral bodies for greater impact of cooperation on workers and employers. We also encouraged greater engagement of tripartite partners, academia, training institutions, industries, and other relevant stakeholders in the implementation of activities under the SLOM+3 Work Plan 2026–2030 in line with the national laws, policies, and regulations of the ASEAN Plus Three Countries.

12. We expressed our sincere appreciation to the Government of Thailand, particularly the Ministry of Labour, for the warm hospitality and excellent arrangements for the 14th ALMM+3. We also thanked the ASEAN Secretariat for its unwavering support in the preparations for and during the Meeting.

13. We confirmed to meet again in 2028 under the ALMM+3 Chairmanship of Timor-Leste.