

JOINT MEDIA STATEMENT
OF THE SIXTH ASEAN MINISTERIAL MEETING ON MINERALS (6th AMMIN)
30 November 2017, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar

1. The 6th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Minerals (AMMin) was held on 30 November 2017 in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar. H.E. U Ohn Winn, Union Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation of Myanmar, chaired the Meeting.

2. The Chair, in his Opening Remarks, highlighted the significance of the minerals sector in the growth and development of ASEAN and the need to balance economic prosperity, social well-being, and environmental protection in the development of the region's mineral resources. He also emphasised the essential role of the mining companies and the private sector in not only helping develop the mineral resources of the region but also in realising the practice of sustainable development in ASEAN.

Implementing the ASEAN Minerals Cooperation Action Plan

3. The Ministers commended the work of the ASEAN Senior Officials on Minerals (ASOMM) and its Working Groups in implementing the ASEAN Minerals Cooperation Action Plan (AMCAP)-III, Phase 1 2016-2020 in particular, the notable progress in the programme areas of capacity building and sustainable minerals development. The Ministers tasked senior officials and minerals working groups to work closely with stakeholders to ensure that the programmes and action lines stipulated in AMCAP-III are effectively and efficiently implemented.

4. The Ministers welcomed the preparations for the 2018 Mid-Term Review of the First Phase of AMCAP-III as well as the proposed study reviewing the development prospects of ASEAN cooperation in minerals following a decade of regional cooperation in minerals. The Ministers tasked ASOMM to ensure that the Mid-Term Review of AMCAP-III Phase 1, as well as the review of development prospects, will feed into sharpening the strategies and implementation of the Second Phase of AMCAP for 2021-2025.

Sustainable Development of Minerals in the Region

5. The Ministers emphasised the importance of minerals and mining as integral to the socio-economic development in the ASEAN Member States (AMS) and in contributing to the 2025 vision of ASEAN economic integration. The Ministers recalled that AMCAP encouraged all AMS to implement sustainable mining practices at every stage of mineral development. They stressed that concerted efforts to meet these sustainability goals not only addresses mining's impacts to peoples and communities, but also enhances mining's social license to develop the region's vast mineral resources and to boost mining-related trade and investments.

6. **Adoption of Reporting Mechanism.** To this end, the Ministers welcomed the activation of the "[ASEAN Reporting Mechanism \(RM\) to Monitor the Adoption of Sustainability Frameworks and Tools for the Minerals Sector](#)" by AMS in 2017. The

RM aims to help track AMS progress and long-term performance in instituting frameworks and tools to support sustainability in the minerals sector. The Ministers acknowledged that this is an initial but crucial step in the AMCAP's goal to implement "Sustainability and Assessment Frameworks and Guidelines" in ASEAN. They looked forward to the RM's implementation and the future development of an information base to support policy recommendations to frame, realise and assess future resource development in the region.

7. **Launch of the ASEAN Mineral Awards.** The Ministers also launched the ASEAN Mineral Awards (AMA) during the 6th AMMin to recognise best practices and support the promotion of environmentally and socially sustainable ASEAN mineral sector. The Ministers noted that 13 mining companies responded to the first call for entries to launch the Awards - an indication of strong interest across the region to collaborate in recognising, promoting and documenting sustainable practices in minerals development.

8. The 1st AMA recognised eight (8) mining companies operating in ASEAN for their commendable practices in three categories of mining operations. The awardees included three (3) from Indonesia, Philippines and Thailand for 'best practice in minerals mining'; another three (3) from Indonesia, Lao PDR and Philippines for 'best practice in minerals processing'; and, two (2) awardees from Indonesia and Thailand for 'best practice in minerals distribution'. The Ministers expressed hope that recognition and promotion of these best practices will help raise performance by making good examples accessible, encourage government and industry to aspire to higher standards, and spur better ways of doing things.

9. **Policies and strategies on mine closure and rehabilitation.** The Ministers welcomed the efforts underway to assess AMS policies on closed and abandoned mines, including rehabilitation strategies and measures. They noted the continuing need for all AMS to strengthen implementation of existing mine closure policies and strategies. In this regard, the Ministers welcomed the successes shared by Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines and Thailand in implementing mine closure and reclamation, as well as their experiences in provisioning for reclamation during operations, enforcement of mining closure plans, and the use of financial funds/instruments to ensure the allocation of financial resources towards rehabilitation and reclamation. The Ministers were also encouraged by the efforts underway in Cambodia, Lao PDR and Myanmar to develop regulations to codify their mine closure and rehabilitation policies.

10. **Sharing of policy experience and documenting best practices.** The Ministers highlighted the need to increase awareness and advance the replication of best practices including in sustainability policies and frameworks, mining operations, mining closure and rehabilitation policies, and small-scale mining regulation in order to help set a higher bar for mining policy and operations in the region. They welcomed the documentation shared through the ASEAN Mineral Awards as well as the initiative by the ASOMM Working Groups and the ASEAN Secretariat to publish and disseminate comparative AMS policies and best practices to a wider audience.

11. **ASEAN Minerals Trust Fund.** The Ministers also welcomed the completion of AMS contributions to the initial endowment of the ASEAN Minerals Trust Fund (AMTF) in 2016. The first drawdown utilising the AMTF to support AMCAP implementation is expected by end-2017. The AMTF was established to support the implementation of AMCAP-III by providing funds for the implementation and conduct of priority policy studies, research/feasibility studies, strategic plans, and capacity building initiatives such as training programmes, workshops and seminars. The Ministers further tasked ASOMM to recommend ways and means to sustain the AMTF's ability to support future priority activities agreed under the AMCAP.

Pursuing strong collaboration and partnerships

12. Following the agreement in 2015 to foster increased cooperation with ASEAN Dialogue Partners in the minerals sector, the Ministers welcomed the adoption in 2016 of the ASEAN+3 Minerals Cooperation Work Plan 2016-2020 – the first work plan setting out cooperation in the minerals sector under the ASEAN+3 framework (particularly ASEAN cooperation with China, Japan and the Republic of Korea).

13. The Ministers looked forward to deepening the program of activities supported by China on minerals prospecting and cross-border geological correlations between ASEAN countries and China. The Ministers also expressed appreciation towards Japan's consistent support for databasing and technical training on minerals database and information management.

14. Acknowledging the current engagement between the public and private sectors towards advancing cooperation in the minerals sector, the Ministers stressed the need to further these efforts, including fostering closer interaction and cooperation with the ASEAN Federation of Mining Associations (AFMA) comprising the national mining chambers/associations in the respective ASEAN Member States, as well as with the mining associations of non-AMS countries.

15. The Ministers tasked ASOMM to intensify cooperation with advanced mining economies and with relevant international organisations, noting the adoption of a new Country Coordinator system for minerals cooperation with DPs. This is expected to help deepen efforts to improve the quality of policy work supporting regional integration in the sector, geo-information and data management, technology transfer, and promotion of scientific and technological research and development, including with such as regional organisations as the Coordinating Committee for Geoscience Programmes in East and Southeast Asia (CCOP) and other mining-specific platforms within the UN and other multilateral organisations.

16. Finally, the Ministers expressed their sincere appreciation to the Government and People of Myanmar for the warm hospitality accorded to the delegations and the excellent arrangements made for the 6th AMMin and Associated Meetings. The Ministers looked forward to the convening of the 18th ASOMM in 2018 in the Philippines and the 7th AMMin in 2019 in Thailand.
