



JOINT STATEMENT

THE NINTH ASEAN MINISTERS MEETING ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ERADICATION (9th AMRDPE)

17 October 2015, Vientiane, Lao PDR

1. The Ninth ASEAN Ministers Meeting on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (9th AMRDPE) was held on 17 October 2015 in Vientiane, Lao PDR and preceded by the Twelfth ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (12th SOMRDPE) on 13-14 October 2015; Eighth ASEAN Plus Three Senior Officials Meeting on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (8th SOMRDPE+3) on 14 October 2015; and the Fourth ASEAN Forum on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication on 15 October 2015. The 9th AMRDPE adopted the theme "Public, Private and People Partnerships (4Ps) for the Post-2015 Sustainable Development in ASEAN".

2. The 9th AMRDPE was opened by H.E. Somsanith SOUVANNALATH, Vice Minister to the Government's Office and Vice Chair of the National Committee for Rural Development and Poverty Eradication of Lao PDR. In the Opening Remarks, H.E. Somsanith SOUVANNALATH congratulated the outgoing Chair from the Indonesia for the effective leadership during his term highlighting the key accomplishments of the sector along rural development and poverty eradication. H.E. Somsanith SOUVANNALATH enjoined the support and continued cooperation of the ASEAN Member States in furthering the work in line with the ASEAN Community Vision and ASCC Blueprint 2025 and post-2015 priorities for the rural development and poverty eradication.

3. The 9th AMRDPE was attended by the ASEAN Ministers responsible for rural development and poverty eradication or their representatives. The Secretary-General of ASEAN was also in attendance. The list of the Ministers or their representatives is enclosed.

Progress of Implementation of the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) Blueprint 2009-2015

4. The Ministers noted with satisfaction the overall achievement in implementing the relevant action lines in the ASCC Blueprint. They expressed appreciation for the initiative, commitment and hard work of the ASEAN Member States and its partners in ensuring that rural development and poverty eradication figures prominently in the continuing work of community development in ASEAN. The Ministers were pleased to note that a significant portion or sixty percent of the regional initiatives went into developing capacities of member

states while thirty-six percent went into formulation of regional policy initiatives. They highlighted that this is an indication of the improved mechanism of working together in ASEAN with respect to rural development and poverty eradication.

5. The Ministers acknowledged the qualitative assessment report on Framing the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Post-2015 conducted by the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) and enjoined the member states to consider the findings and recommendations in the report in developing the 2016-2020 Framework Action Plan on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication. They considered the report recommendations highlighting the need to focus attention on the rural poor in terms of enhancing productivity and raising incomes, providing social services and social protection, improving access to and quality of important rural infrastructure, providing incentives and expanding remunerative employment for farmers and fisher folks.

6. The Ministers also noted the quantitative assessment report of the ASCC Blueprint 2009-2015 or the ASCC Scorecard Report 2015. The Ministers exchanged views on the assessment report and agreed on ways forward in enhancing the monitoring and evaluation of its framework action plan towards a more results-oriented and outcome-based assessment of its work in accordance with its mandate and aspirations in support of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the ASCC Blueprint 2025.

Progress of Implementation of the Framework Action Plan on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (2011-2015)

7. The Ministers exchanged views on national strategies, good practices, and experiences in implementing national and regional initiatives on rural development and poverty eradication. They noted the progress of implementation of regional initiatives contained in the 2011-2015 Framework Action Plan on RPDE and acknowledged the successful completion of projects. The Ministers tasked their senior officials to continue the initiatives and consider carrying forward to the next framework action plan those that are relevant to the post-2015 objectives of rural development and poverty eradication.

8. The Ministers noted with appreciation the report on the ASEAN Regional Assessment on MDG Achievements and Post-2015 Development Agenda, an initiative by the Senior Officials Meeting on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (SOMRDPE) completed under the SOMRDPE Chairmanship of the Philippines and prepared with the support of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in coordination with the ASEAN senior officials on social welfare and development (SOMSWD), education (SOMED), health (SOMHD), women (ACW), environment (ASOEN) and statistics (ACSS). The report provided an overall picture of the ASEAN region's MDG achievement as of 2015 and highlighted recommendations on post-2015 development priorities for consideration by relevant ASEAN sectoral ministerial bodies.

Development of the ASEAN Framework Action Plan on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication 2016-2020

9. The Ministers deliberated and adopted in principle the 2016-2020 Framework Action Plan on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication. They expressed appreciation to the member states and the ASEAN Secretariat in the development of the framework action plan, noting the priority it accorded to vulnerable groups and poor households' access and control to productive natural resources, financial and support services, social protection and participation in socio-economic opportunities. The Ministers were also pleased with the greater efforts in strengthening cross-sectoral collaboration to achieve convergence of rural development and poverty eradication initiatives at the local, national and regional levels through improved coordination mechanism, policy coherence and effective localisation of RDPE programmes and actions.

Engagement with Stakeholders

10. The Ministers were pleased to note that the Fourth ASEAN Forum on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication was successfully convened on 15 October 2015 with the theme "Public, Private and People Partnerships (4Ps) for the Post-2015 Sustainable Development in ASEAN" that appropriately captured the significance of public, private and people partnerships to promote poverty reduction and sustainable development of the communities especially in the rural areas. The Ministers were pleased that the ASEAN Forum on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication continues as a regular platform for dialogue and sharing of information among governments, non-government organisations/ civil society organisations and now with the inclusion of the private sector, towards closer relations and cooperation on shared RDPE agenda.

11. The Ministers congratulated the NGOs/CSOs from ASEAN Member States that received the Second ASEAN Rural Development and Poverty Eradication Leadership Awards on 16 October 2015, namely: The Council of Women Brunei Darussalam; Australian Catholic Relief/ Caritas Australia (ACR/CA) of Cambodia; Yayasan BITRA Indonesia; Poverty Reduction Fund Project (PRF) of Lao PDR; Angkatan Zaman Mansang (AZAM) of Malaysia; Network Activities Group (NAG) of Myanmar; Pambansang Kilusan ng mga Samahang Magsasaka (PAKISAMA) of the Philippines; Lions Befrienders Service Association of Singapore; Promotion of Human Resources for Community Development Foundation (PHRCDF) of Thailand; and The Centre for Sustainable Rural Development (SRD) of Viet Nam. The Awards were presented as a recognition of their outstanding achievements and contributions to rural and community development and to improve the livelihood of the poor and vulnerable groups in their respective communities or countries.

Cooperation with China, Japan and Republic of Korea

12. The Ministers expressed appreciation to China, Japan and Republic of Korea for their continued support and cooperation in implementing regional initiatives of mutual interest geared towards addressing rural poverty and development in the Plus Three Countries. The Ministers exchanged views on key priority areas for collaboration with China, Japan and Republic of Korea for post-2015 highlighting on the theme of "Public, Private and People

Partnerships (4Ps) for the Post-2015 Sustainable Development in ASEAN” as well as in the context of the ASEAN Community’s aim to strengthen its role as an active partner in regional and global affairs especially in light of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.

13. The Ministers noted the significant exchange of views among the ASEAN Plus Three Countries relevant to the theme and expressed appreciation on the wide acceptance and support on promoting 4Ps as an inclusive approach in promoting rural development and poverty eradication in the region. The Ministers were pleased to note the current and planned 4Ps initiatives in the AMS particularly those that promote engagement of the private sector in areas such as social insurance and social protection, promoting economic empowerment through enhanced infrastructure, access to finance and markets and support to product development of the peoples.

14. The Ministers were also pleased to note that the exchange of views manifested a strong commitment of ASEAN Plus Three Countries to the principles of people empowerment, enhancing people’s meaningful participation in development, promoting people’s ownership, putting people at the centre of the development process and supporting the regional initiatives that involve 4Ps as an inclusive approach toward rural development and poverty eradication.

The 10th AMRDPE

15. The Ministers noted with appreciation Malaysia’s readiness to host the Tenth ASEAN Ministers Meeting on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (10th AMRDPE) in 2017.

16. The Ministers expressed their appreciation to the Government of Lao PDR for the warm hospitality and excellent arrangement of the Meeting. The Ministers also expressed their appreciation to the ASEAN Secretariat for the assistance rendered.

**LIST OF MINISTERS OR THEIR REPRESENTATIVES
ATTENDING THE NINTH ASEAN MINISTERS MEETING ON RURAL
DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ERADICATION**

H.E. Dato Paduka Dr. Haji Affendy bin POKSM DSP Haji Abidin
Permanent Secretary
On behalf of the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports
Brunei Darussalam

H.E. Sao Chivoan
Secretary of State
On behalf of the Minister of Rural Development
Cambodia

H.E. Irmawan Emir Wisnandar
Indonesian Ambassador to Lao PDR
On behalf of the Coordinating Minister of Human Development and Culture
Indonesia

H.E. Somsanith Souvannalath
Vice Minister to the Government's Office
Vice Chair of the National Committee for Rural Development and Poverty Eradication
Lao PDR

H.E. Datuk Alexander Nanta Linggi
Deputy Minister of Rural and Regional Development
Malaysia

H.E. U Tin Ngwe

Deputy Minister of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development
Myanmar

H.E. Florencia Casanova Dorotan

Undersecretary of the National Anti-Poverty Commission, Office of the President
The Philippines

H.E. Chan Heng Kee

Permanent Secretary
On behalf of the Minister of Social and Family Development
Singapore

H.E. Markboon Sutee

Deputy Minister of Interior
Thailand

H.E. Dr. Le Quoc Doanh

Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development
Viet Nam

H.E. Le Luong Minh

Secretary-General of ASEAN
The ASEAN Secretariat

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