



JOINT STATEMENT OF THE SEVENTH ASEAN EDUCATION MINISTERS MEETING

4 July 2012, Yogyakarta, Indonesia

1. The Seventh ASEAN Education Ministers Meeting (7th ASED) was convened on 4 July 2012 in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, in conjunction with the First ASEAN Plus Three Education Ministers Meeting (1st APT EMM) and the First East Asia Summit Education Ministers Meeting (1st EAS EMM).
2. The Ministers commended the good progress in the first year's implementation of the ASEAN 5-Year Work Plan on Education (2011-2015) which laid a good foundation for achieving specific goals on ASEAN cooperation, which among others include (i) enhancing ASEAN Identity through education, and (ii) expansion of student and faculty mobility through a wide range of regional programmes. The Work Plan has a significant importance for the empowerment of the peoples of ASEAN and for the strengthening of the ASEAN Community.
3. The Ministers noted educational challenges and opportunities in a global world, and agreed to further collaborate toward development of a more coordinated, cohesive and coherent ASEAN position and its contribution to global education issues, particularly related to the the primary and secondary levels, e.g. (i) universal and equal access to quality primary education, (ii) standardised information on the level of literacy of early grade students within the ASEAN region, and (iii) professional development of teachers and school leaders and evaluation methods. These will help to support the attainment of the MDG Goal 2, which is "achieve universal primary education" as well as the UNESCO "Education For All" (EFA) initiative.
4. The Ministers further indicated the need for greater interaction and dialogue with other ASEAN sectoral bodies with an interest in education, regional and international educational organisations, Dialogue Partners, the private sector and other parties to ensure synergy, minimise any overlapping areas of cooperation, and to maximise efficiency in the allocation of resources. Member States are also encouraged to exert more effort to avail national resources to implement programmes and activities of the ASEAN 5-Year Work Plan on Education (2011-2015). In addition, the ASEAN-help-ASEAN mechanism could be strengthened further to help the ASEAN developing member state.
5. The Ministers agreed that there is a need to focus on youth involvement in education through the different platforms, be it through new and social media, education volunteerism or people to people exchange and connectivity programmes.

6. The Ministers welcomed joint initiatives and activities with the Southeast Asia Ministers of Education Organisation (SEAMEO) and its regional centres to achieve the shared goals and advance the educational purposes articulated in the ASEAN Charter. Amongst others, the Ministers officiated at the launch of the ASEAN Curriculum Sourcebook which can be utilised for national curricula development, and noted the progress of the ASEAN Studies Course for undergraduate students at ASEAN universities.

7. The Ministers also noted the proactive role of the ASEAN University Network (AUN) and SEAMEO- RIHED in promoting student mobility in ASEAN. In this regard, the Ministers agreed that the ongoing implementation of the ASEAN Credit Transfer System (ACTS) among the AUN Member Universities may be extended to all eligible universities in the future to facilitate more student mobility and raise a number of exchange activities at in-country level, between ASEAN universities or beyond the region.

8. The Ministers, in view of the progress in implementation of the ASEAN Plus Three Plan of Action on Education: 2010 – 2017 and the East Asia Summit Education Cooperation Action Plan 2011 – 2015, agreed to formalise the respective ASEAN Plus Three and the EAS education cooperation process.

9. The Ministers also agreed on the development of the education scorecard within the ASEAN Socio-Culture Community (ASCC) Scorecard to assess the implementation of the ASCC Blueprint and to put forward recommendations to ensure the timely implementation of the ASCC Blueprint.

10. The Ministers acknowledged and welcomed the policy paper presented by Indonesia on ASEAN Single Window in the education sector.

11. The Ministers welcomed Lao PDR's offer to host the 8th ASED in 2014.

12. The Ministers expressed their appreciation to Indonesia for the warm hospitality and arrangements made in hosting the 7th ASED and to the ASEAN Secretariat for its technical assistance to the Meeting.
