

## 2008 ASEAN CUSTOMS VISION 2015

*Adopted in Vientiane, Laos on 18 June 2008*

We, the Directors-General/Controllers/Commissioners of Customs of Brunei Darussalam, Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Union of Myanmar, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN);

**NOTING** the emerging trends and developments in the regional and global arena, in particular, the globalisation of economic relationship, integration of the international supply chain, trade facilitation, and the increasing competitiveness of the world's economies;

**MINDFUL** of the challenges these trends would pose on ASEAN, in particular ASEAN Customs Administrations, so as to sustain the economic dynamism and competitiveness of the region;

**RECOGNISING** the rapid changes taking place within the region, the need to promote closer economic integration in ASEAN, and the increasing need for enhanced ASEAN customs cooperation and integration for the establishment of the ASEAN Community, in particular the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) by 2015;

**BELIEVING** that ASEAN Customs must aim to provide excellence and quality service to the ASEAN community, that they must enhance the efficiency, integrity and modernisation of their administrations so as to provide consistent, simple and transparent procedures and requirements;

**COMMITTING** to deepen and broaden ASEAN Customs cooperation, integration and partnership to promote customs cohesiveness and uniformity within the region to facilitate trade and investment and to protect legitimate interest of the ASEAN Community;

**RECOGNISING** the mission of ASEAN Customs Administrations to improve and facilitate the cross-border flow of goods, means of transport and persons, lessen costs of trade transactions and to effectively enforce laws and regulations for good health, safety, security and prosperity to all peoples of ASEAN;

**FURTHER RECOGNISING** the need to formulate a long term vision for ASEAN Customs Administrations reformation and modernization and to set concrete goals for the regional customs integration, so as to collectively face and deal with the present and future challenges in a cohesive and effective manner;

**NOW THEREFORE** we have agreed on the following Vision for the year 2015:

**ASEAN Customs Partnership** for World Class Standards and Excellence in professionalism, services and uniformity with the view to promote trade facilitation, regional economic integration and securing the international supply chain for the wellbeing of the ASEAN Community.

**Also Agreed** that to realise our Vision, we shall collectively develop the regional agenda of customs development and modernization and effectively and timely implement its concrete measures to enhance the customs efficiency in contributing to promote trade facilitation, continuous enhancement of regional economic competitiveness and integration, and securing the international supply chain in partnership with businesses and industries;

**As follows:**

1. To provide better service to the public and the trading community on the basis of the Customs Service Charters and established service performance indicators.
2. To promote transparency and full access to all regulations and legislations being enforced by the Customs and statutory requirements for the movement and circulation of goods and commodities, means of transport and passengers.
3. To accelerate the customs reform and modernization and enhancement of public accountability.
4. To foster sustainable human resource development and strengthen the capacity of ASEAN Customs officers.
5. To provide a consistent and uniform classification of goods and commodities for tariff purpose in line with international standards and practices.
6. To apply uniform methods of valuation of goods and commodities for customs purpose on the basis of international conventions and commitments.
7. To achieve a consistent, uniform determination of origin of goods in accordance with established rules and practices to facilitate trade and investment.
8. To adopt and implement standardized and streamlined procedures, practices and formalities of clearance and release of Goods for trade facilitation aligned to international best practices and provisions of international conventions of trade facilitation.
9. To accelerate the application of Information and Communication Technology into the customs control and management with the aim to expedite customs clearance of goods.
10. To modernize customs control by applying the risk management techniques.
11. To establish the ASEAN Customs Transit system in promoting the free movement and circulation of goods and commodities, means of transport in the region.
12. To foster the mutual assistance among ASEAN Customs Administrations for a more effective tackling against smuggling, cross border economic crimes as related to the Customs, and efficient safeguard of customs revenues while fulfilling related mandates of protection of the society and legitimate business interests.
13. To promote continuous modernization of customs practices and to narrow development gap through active sharing of experiences and knowledge.
14. To strengthen measures of law enforcement and its effective implementation as relevant to the Customs in areas of interest to ASEAN, among others, the protection of Public Security and Intellectual Property Rights;
15. To strengthen the cooperation and partnership with businesses and Industries, international customs community and international organizations.

**RESOLVED** to ensure the realisation of our Vision, we have agreed to set appropriate benchmarks, milestones and performance standards to monitor and review the progress in implementing the activities for the Vision at the annual Meetings of the ASEAN Directors-General of Customs for prompt actions.

**FURTHER RESOLVED** to ensure that the role of customs is enhanced in the ASEAN community, we call upon all stakeholders, including the business community to establish closer cooperative links with ASEAN Customs so as to facilitate the realization of our Vision;

**DONE** on this 18th day, in the month of June, 2008, in Vientiane, Lao People's Democratic Republic.