

2015-2017 PLAN OF ACTION TO IMPLEMENT THE PHNOM PENH DECLARATION ON EAST ASIA SUMMIT DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE

Adopted in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 22 November 2015

ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY COOPERATION	2
EDUCATION COOPERATION.....	4
FINANCE COOPERATION	5
COOPERATION ON GLOBAL HEALTH ISSUES AND PANDEMIC DISEASES	5
COOPERATION ON NATURAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT	7
COOPERATION ON ASEAN CONNECTIVITY	8
TRADE AND ECONOMICS COOPERATION	9
FOOD SECURITY COOPERATION	9
INSTITUTIONAL AND FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS PLAN OF ACTION.....	10

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This Plan of Action will serve as framework to implement the Phnom Penh Declaration on the EAS Development Initiative, which was adopted on 20 November 2012 and pursuant to the decision of the 3rd EAS Foreign Ministers Meeting on 2 July 2013.

This Plan of Action will ensure practical coordination and implementation of the Leaders' decisions consistent with the principles of the 2005 Kuala Lumpur Declaration on the East Asia Summit and the 2010 Ha Noi Declaration on the Commemoration of the Fifth Anniversary of the East Asia Summit, the Leaders' agreed priority areas of cooperation at the 2nd East Asia Summit in Cebu, Philippines in 2007, the 2011 Declaration of the 6th East Asia Summit on ASEAN Connectivity in Bali, Indonesia. The following cooperation in EAS streams of work will be undertaken in conformity with the EAS participating countries' obligations under international law and in accordance with their respective domestic laws, regulations, and policies:

1. ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY COOPERATION

- 1.1 Toward further mainstreaming sustainable development, promoting balanced, inclusive, and sustainable approaches:
 - 1.1.1 Seek to develop initiatives linked to the implementation of regionally relevant outcomes, building on existing ASEAN programs, other relevant regional activities of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) and the Statement of the 2012 APEC Meeting of Ministers Responsible for the Environment where appropriate.
- 1.2 Increase the policy dialogue and communication and forge greater collaboration through mechanisms, including the EAS Environment Ministers' Meeting and EAS Energy Ministers' Meeting.
- 1.3 Recognize the *Cebu Declaration on East Asian Energy Security*; and the *Singapore Declaration on Climate Change, Energy and the Environment*:
 - 1.3.1 Promote active participation of the US-Asia Pacific Comprehensive Energy Partnership (USACEP).
- 1.4 Support the implementation of the initiatives, action plans, and research studies on energy cooperation being undertaken under the ASEAN framework and between ASEAN and Dialogue Partners as follows:
 - 1.4.1 ASEAN Plan of Action for Energy Cooperation (APAEC) 2010-2015;
 - 1.4.2 EAS energy cooperation work plan;
 - 1.4.3 East Asia Low Carbon-Growth Partnership Initiatives; and

- 1.4.4 Research Studies on the following areas by the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), for EAS Energy Cooperation:
 - (i) EAS energy outlooks for the medium-to-long term;
 - (ii) strategic usage of coal through Clean Coal Technology;
 - (iii) optimum electric power infrastructure;
 - (iv) nuclear power safety management;
 - (v) smart urban traffic promoting energy efficiency of the transport sector; and
 - (vi) sustainable natural gas market in the EAS region.
- 1.5 Conduct joint research and development (R&D) and investment on renewable and alternative energy:
 - 1.5.1 Encourage the active role of the Biofuels for Transport and Other Purposes Work Stream and the Renewable and Alternative Power Generation Work Stream;
 - 1.5.2 Support the new research studies by the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA); and
 - 1.5.3 Continue to support the EAS New Energy Forum.
- 1.6 Stimulate discourse analyzing the barriers to renewable energy policies and of investment in renewable energy.
 - 1.6.1 Promote dialogue on reform of fuel subsidies, which encourage wasteful consumption, while recognizing the importance of providing those in need with essential energy services in order, among other benefits, to encourage productive allocation of capital and to level the playing field for renewable energy investment.
- 1.7 Promote the deployment of advanced technologies on energy efficiency and conservation.
 - 1.7.1 Encourage the active role of Energy Efficiency and Conservation Work Stream and support the research study on smart energy management by ERIA.
- 1.8 Enhance research and cooperation in urban sustainable development as well as raise the environmental awareness of the general public:
 - 1.8.1 Encourage support for programs on sustainable cities, including to continue holding the High-Level Seminar on Environmentally Sustainable Cities (HLS-ESC).
- 1.9 Bring to a higher level the work on EAS cooperation in climate change adaptation and mitigation.
 - 1.9.1 Continue cooperation through the East Asia Low Carbon Growth Partnership in order to build awareness of mitigation; and

- 1.9.2 Continue to hold the EAS Seminar on Climate Change Adaptation Capacity Building bearing in mind that adaptation and mitigation are both important in addressing the short and long-term effects of climate change in the East Asia Summit region.
- 1.9.3 Encourage cooperation with the Asia-Pacific Adaptation Network under the auspices of UNEP's Global Adaptation Network.
- 1.9.4 Encourage support for China's initiative to establish the East Asia Center for Climate Change Research and International Cooperation.
- 1.9.5 Promote dialogue and cooperation in the field of advanced energy technologies, including carbon capture and storage, energy storage, and energy efficiency and clean and renewable energy technologies in electrical power generation and transport.
- 1.9.6 Continue to promote the usage of renewable energy resources, such as wind, solar, geothermal, hydro, biomass, and ocean energy.
- 1.10 Encourage support to the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB), a regional organization and center of excellence dedicated to the promotion of regional collaboration on biodiversity conservation.
- 1.11 Continue to promote the conservation, protection and preservation of the marine environment through sustainable use of marine resources responsibly, building on initiatives of various ASEAN-led mechanisms.

2. EDUCATION COOPERATION

- 2.1 Increase communication and dialogue in educational policies through the EAS Education Ministers' Meeting and other mechanisms.
- 2.2 To further promote cooperation to implement the EAS Education Action Plan (2011-2015), including by implementing associated projects, with an emphasis on improving the quality of primary, secondary and higher systems and strengthening cooperation on technical and vocational education and training (TVET).
- 2.3 To develop and promote school programs in history, culture, geography and social studies to enhance mutual understanding among EAS participating countries.
- 2.4 Encourage interested EAS participating countries to engage with the development of the ASEAN Qualifications Reference Framework (AQRF) and consider referencing against the AQRF in the future, once established and fully functional.
- 2.5 Promote student and youth exchanges among countries in the region, including through the continued conduct of study programmes and scholarship programmes among EAS participating countries.
 - 2.5.1 Continue to carry out "JENESYS 2.0" and "KAKEHASHI Project"

- 2.5.2 Expand the New Colombo Plan scholarships and mobility grants to multiple locations across the Indo-Pacific.
- 2.6 Support the establishment of Nalanda University as an international institution of excellence.
- 2.7 Promote Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) in the region:
 - 2.7.1 Continue to conduct the activities of ESD;
 - 2.7.2 Continue to enhance the quality education by implementing the activities of ESD; and
 - 2.7.3 Support for the UNESCO World Conference on ESD to be held in Japan in November 2014.
- 2.8 Encourage promotion of a life-long learning society.

3. FINANCE COOPERATION

- 3.1 Work closely to strengthen the global economic recovery and regional financial cooperation through exchanges of views on macro-economic and financial developments, including via greater collaboration in the financial sector; strengthen the communication of monetary policies and urge regional countries to adopt a responsible monetary policy in order to jointly cope with regional financial risks.
- 3.2 Convene the Informal EAS Finance Ministers' Meetings, as mutually agreed, to further develop and consolidate finance as a priority area of EAS cooperation through the exchange of views on regional and international finance developments.
- 3.3 Continue to implement decisions and measures outlined in the 2009 Joint Press Statement of the East Asia Summit on the Global Economic and Financial Crisis.
- 3.4 Strengthen the human resource development and capacity-building in finance to narrow development gaps in the region.
 - 3.4.1 Conduct the EAS Workshop on Trade and Finance.

4. COOPERATION ON GLOBAL HEALTH ISSUES AND PANDEMIC DISEASES

- 4.1 Enhance regional preparedness and capacity through comprehensive and integrated approaches to (i) prevention; (ii) control; (iii) care; (iv) management; (v) surveillance; and (vi) timely response to communicable diseases such as HIV and AIDS, dengue, tuberculosis; emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases such as drug-resistant malaria; and impacts of pandemics. Specific relevant activities may include but not limited to the following:
 - 4.1.1 Support the implementation of the *Declaration of the EAS on Regional Responses to Malaria Control, and Addressing Resistance to Antimalarial Medicine*; and

- 4.1.2 Support the work of the Asia-Pacific Leaders Malaria Alliance (APLMA) to enhance East Asia cooperation in dealing with malaria issues in the region.
- 4.2 Encourage cooperation, based on the principles of Universal Health Coverage, to increase access to primary health care services for people of the region especially in maternal health and for newborns, children and elderly, through the following:
 - 4.2.1 Access to affordable health care services;
 - 4.2.2 Strengthening countries cooperation to ensure access to adequate primary health care, CLMV in particular, for example to promote the role and capacity building efforts of health village volunteer;
 - 4.2.3 Enhancing regional coordination and cooperation on public health policies and regulations.
 - 4.2.4 Establishing and sustaining networks of health care services; and
 - 4.2.5 Promoting the sharing of good practices in primary health care and consumer protection to promote the region public health status in achieving the targets of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).
- 4.3 Strengthen regional cooperation to enhance access to affordable and essential healthcare services, and safe, high-quality and affordable medicines, as well as to promote a healthy lifestyle.
- 4.4 Enhance coordination and cooperation on public health.
- 4.5 Enhance capacity building of EAS participating countries in the area of public health which may include, but not limited to the following:
 - 4.5.1 Conduct training courses on public health human resources.
 - 4.5.2 Conduct the *Round Table on Tertiary Health Care with Focus on Trauma and Nursing*.
 - 4.5.3 Explore ways to promote regional cooperation in enhancing national health system response to all hazards such as natural disasters, pandemics or emerging infectious diseases, which may include among others emergency and disaster medicines.
- 4.6 Promote sharing of best practices and information exchange and transfer of health-related technologies.
- 4.7 Improve the health status of the people of the region towards achieving the targets of the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) and post-2015 development agenda as appropriate.
- 4.8 Promote collaborative research and development on relevant health intervention and technologies for the prevention, treatment, care, and management of emerging infectious and communicable diseases.

5. COOPERATION ON NATURAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT

- 5.1 Implement decisions and measures outlined in the *Cha-am Hua Hin Statement on EAS Disaster Management* and continue to discuss the linkage between the EAS Paper on a Practical Approach to Enhance Regional Cooperation on Disaster Rapid Response and the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response Work Programme 2010-2015.
- 5.2 Support the operation of the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Centre), and encourage all EAS participating countries to provide funding and technical support.
- 5.3 Build on the linkage between the EAS Paper and other disaster management activities under the EAS and ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) Work Programme 2010-2015 as well as promote information-sharing, rapid response, and coordinated action.
 - 5.3.1 Follow-up to the Australia-Indonesia Rapid Disaster Response Workshops held on 23-24 September 2013 and 11-12 June 2014.
- 5.4 Deepen engagement between the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM) and national disaster management authorities of non-ASEAN EAS participating countries to guide cooperation in disaster management:
 - 5.4.1 Support the ACDM Session on EAS Cooperation on Disaster Management; and
 - 5.4.2 Consider establishing a network of 24x7 Points of Contacts among the National Disaster Response Agencies of the EAS participating countries.
- 5.5 Conduct disaster response and recovery exercises, in coordination with other regional forums, keeping in mind the importance of avoiding unnecessary duplication to strengthen the capacity of regional countries to cope with natural disasters:
 - 5.5.1 Support the EAS Earthquake Response and Relief Joint Exercise.
 - 5.5.2 Continue to support the Mentawai Megathrust Disaster Relief Exercise.
- 5.6 Conduct capacity-building, exchange of experiences, and sound practices in disaster management;
 - 5.6.1 Welcome the third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in 2015 in Japan to share experiences and lessons learned from the Great East Japan Earthquake;
 - 5.6.2 Conduct capacity-building activities on disaster risk reduction and response; and
 - 5.6.3 Discuss further the establishment of Virtual Knowledge Portal to share knowledge and best practices related to natural disaster risk assessment, mitigation and response.

- 5.6.4 Promote exchange of knowledge and experience on medical rehabilitation treatment, both mental and physical health under the framework of the World Health Organization (WHO).

6. COOPERATION ON ASEAN CONNECTIVITY

- 6.1 Support the implementation of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) and encourage EAS participating countries to provide funding, technological, and intellectual support on the following areas of cooperation:
 - 6.1.1 Implement the outcomes of the EAS Regulatory Roundtable.
 - 6.1.2 Encourage deeper engagement between the ASEAN Coordinating Committee on Connectivity (ACCC) and non-ASEAN EAS participating countries.
 - 6.1.3 Strengthen transport infrastructure connectivity including by facilitating the establishment of a green, safe and efficient transport network, for the promotion of economic prosperity and sustainable development.
 - 6.1.4 Enhance the development of infrastructure, services and institutional connectivity.
- 6.2 Encourage public and private sectors to actively participate in the priority projects of the MPAC to enhance connectivity and encourage business enterprises to directly engage in the investment, construction and operation of the projects.
- 6.3 Encourage the ASEAN Connectivity Coordinating Committee (ACCC) to also engage with other external partners, including the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), Asian Development Bank (ADB), and World Bank in implementing the Declaration of the 6th EAS on ASEAN Connectivity.
- 6.4 Enhance people-to-people connectivity through the promotion of tourism, education and cultural cooperation, including through North-South cooperation, South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation.
- 6.5 Enhance business connectivity which leads to building effective supply chain networks across the region with upgrading of industries and development of supporting industries.
- 6.6 Encourage the EAS participating countries to play active roles in ASEAN Connectivity through multi-layered regional frameworks and sharing best practices.
- 6.7 Encourage the EAS participating countries to play active roles in enhancing people-to-people connectivity through the tourism cooperation in order to achieve equitable and sustainable development via:
 - 6.7.1 Development and improvement of infrastructure related to tourism;
 - 6.7.2 Travel facilitation at international portals;

- 6.7.3 Support and assist community-based tourism development aimed to accelerate poverty reduction at rural, disadvantaged communities as well as to further contribute to protection and conservation of natural and cultural heritages.
- 6.8 Enhance cooperation on maritime connectivity, including through collaborative efforts in developing environment and user-friendly port infrastructure, establishment of integrated, competitive and seamless maritime transport network, and promotion of the safety and security of navigation and shipping, to promote economic growth, narrow development gaps, and contribute to regional integration and community building process, as well as to increase greater people mobility.

7. TRADE AND ECONOMICS COOPERATION

- 7.1 Strengthen cooperation and dialogue in economics and trade through the EAS Economic Ministers' Meeting, EAS Senior Economic Officials' Meeting, and other mechanisms, including business forums.
- 7.2 Support regional economic integration efforts and strengthen trade and investment among the EAS participating countries:
 - 7.2.1 Support the realization of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC);
 - 7.2.2 Maintain the momentum of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) negotiations in supporting and contributing to economic integration, equitable economic development, and strengthening economic cooperation among participating countries through working towards a comprehensive, high quality, and mutually beneficial agreement; and
 - 7.2.3 Promote the FTA negotiations among China, Japan and ROK, contributing to the ongoing process of open economic integration in East Asia as well as Asia-Pacific region.

8. FOOD SECURITY COOPERATION

- 8.1 Support the implementation of the *EAS Declaration on Food Security* and strengthen EAS cooperation in the field of food security.
- 8.2 Participate in activities of the *EAS Track II Study Group on Enhancing Food Security through Sustainable Fisheries Management and Marine Environmental Conservation* on a voluntary basis.
- 8.3 Promote responsible and sustainable fishing.

9. INSTITUTIONAL AND FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS PLAN OF ACTION

- 9.1 The initiatives mentioned in this Plan of Action will be implemented through existing regional frameworks and mechanisms of ASEAN, in close consultation with and support from EAS participating countries, and with appropriate support and from relevant regional and international organizations, including Asian Development Bank (ADB), United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), World Bank, and Economic Research Institute of ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA).
- 9.2 The relevant EAS ministerial meetings and senior officials' meetings are in-charge of reviewing their respective work streams and assessing the progress at regular intervals.
- 9.3 Submit progress reports on the implementation of the Plan of Action to the annual EAS Foreign Ministers' Meeting