

# 2012 PHNOM PENH AGENDA FOR ASEAN COMMUNITY BUILDING

*Adopted in Phnom Penh, Cambodia on 3-4 April 2012*

**WE**, the Heads of State/Government of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), namely, Brunei Darussalam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Union of the Republic of Myanmar, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, on the occasion of the 20th ASEAN Summit in Phnom Penh;

**EMPHASISING** the importance of the ASEAN Charter in establishing ASEAN as a rules-based organization;

**NOTING** with satisfaction the progress of the implementation of the Roadmap for an ASEAN Community (2009-2015) towards the realization of the ASEAN Community by 2015;

**WELCOMING** the 45th Anniversary of the establishment of ASEAN in 2012 and significant achievements of ASEAN in promoting peace and security, economic growth and integration, and social development;

**EMPHASISING** that building the ASEAN Community and narrowing the development gaps shall remain high on the agenda of ASEAN to ensure the benefits of ASEAN integration are fully realized by its peoples;

**REAFFIRMING** the need for effective and timely realisation of integration and community building targets as well as the fulfilment of the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) and other sub-regional frameworks;

**COGNIZANT** that the rapidly changing globalised world continues to present both opportunities and challenges to which ASEAN must proactively utilise and respond, bearing in mind its integration agenda's priorities and available resources;

**REAFFIRMING** also our resolution that ASEAN shall continue to maintain its centrality and role as the driving force in enhancing and ensuring significant progress in achieving the ASEAN Community, and that the regional architecture and regional environment remain conducive to development as well as in strengthening ASEAN's role in the global community;

**ENCOURAGED** by the progress made so far towards the realisation of the ASEAN Community by 2015 and mindful of the need to redouble efforts to achieve this goal.

**HEREBY** decide:

1. We shall continue to further intensify all efforts in implementing the priority areas under the APSC Blueprint. ASEAN shall give emphasis to the implementation of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC), including the eventual conclusion of Code of Conduct (COC) in the South China Sea, the conclusion of the Protocol to the Treaty on SEANWFZ, the official launching of ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (AIPR), and the conclusion of ASEAN Human Rights Declaration.

2. We shall double our efforts to realize the ASEAN Economic Community in 2015 by transforming ASEAN into a single market and production base, highly competitive region with equitable economic development and fully integrated into global economy. Hence, we need to set priority activities and concrete key measures to address the challenges and obstacles in realizing the ASEAN Economic Community. We encourage the effective implementation of the ASEAN Framework on Equitable Economic Development which will reinforce the realization of the other three pillars of AEC Blueprint. While conscious of the benefits of integrating into global economy, ASEAN will play a leading role in the process of shaping the regional economic architecture through the implementation of the ASEAN Framework for Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP). In this regard, ASEAN shall work closely with its Dialogue Partners and external parties as well as various regional and international institutions such as the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the World Bank and the United Nations (UN) to carry out comprehensive studies to identify practical measures to strengthen institutional capacity, enhance coordination and address any implementation gaps which could impede the realization of an ASEAN Economic Community by 2015.
3. We shall continue to focus on maintaining regional financial stability, especially in the context of the on-going global economic and financial challenges, as well as implement measures to prevent and address future crisis. In this regard, considering that the Chiang Mai Initiative Multilateralisation (CMIM) is a key instrument, we encourage our ASEAN Finance Ministers to work closely with the Plus Three Partners to enhance the CMIM mechanism.
4. We call for a comprehensive Mid-term Review of the IAI Work Plan II in 2012 in order to stock-take the implementation of the IAI Work Plan II and set out concrete and practical measures to expedite its objectives and chart its future direction, including enhancing the implementation of the priority projects and the CLMV Priority Action List.
5. We call for the effective and timely implementation of the “Master Plan for ASEAN Connectivity” (MPAC), which was adopted in 2010. In this regard, we shall work toward accelerating the operationalization and utilization of the ASEAN Infrastructure Fund, with the support of the Asian Development Bank (ADB), through the participation of ASEAN partners. Furthermore, we shall continue to encourage the participation of the private sector in the implementation of this Master Plan.
6. We shall continue to enhance cooperation in the implementation of the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) Blueprint in order to realize an ASEAN Community by 2015. We task the ASEAN Labor Ministers Meeting to continue their work to implement the ASEAN Declaration on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers, including to take a phased approach in the development of an ASEAN Instrument on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers in the region, starting by focusing on issues which are comfortable to all ASEAN Member States, in line with the existing national laws and/or policies, and in accordance with the Cebu Declaration.
7. We shall continue to give our priority to disaster management has become a significant global issue, particularly in our region, as evidenced by the persistent occurrence of natural calamities in ASEAN Member States. In this regard, we consider collaboration in this area as a priority in 2012 and there is a need to work towards the full operationalisation of the AHA Centre to serve as a regional hub for information and knowledge sharing as well as ASEAN’s collective response to the disaster affected areas. There is also a need to enhance practical cooperation among ASEAN Member States and between ASEAN and Dialogue Partners and other Partners of ASEAN using the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response

(AADMER) and its mechanisms as the main regional policy backbone and coordinating platform for disaster management in the region, including under other ASEAN initiatives.

8. We recognise that food security remains a major challenge for ASEAN and the world as a whole, at a time of high commodity prices and economic uncertainty. Considering the potential of the agriculture sector in the region to secure food security, ASEAN shall focus on enhancing existing ASEAN priorities, particularly on programmes that increase agricultural productivity and production. We note that such measures can include enhancing infrastructure development and capacity both at the national and regional levels, improving credit schemes for the agriculture sector, and improving market access for the region's agricultural-related products. In this regard, we direct our responsible Ministers to build on existing and explore new initiatives on food security including using ASEAN Plus Three Emergency Rice Reserve (APTERR) as a role model for food commodities in addition to rice. Furthermore, we tasked the relevant government agencies/ministries to look into the possibility of forming an agreement/arrangement on the cooperation related to the rice business cooperation to ensure food security in the region.
9. We recognise the important role of women in regional development. Therefore, we call for the optimisation of ASEAN mechanisms responsible to women issues, namely ASEAN Commission for the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC), ASEAN Committee on Women and ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Women, and other sectoral bodies related to women, to ensure the effective implementation of their planned activities.