

2015 KUALA LUMPUR DECLARATION ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Adopted in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 21 November 2015

WE, the Heads of States or Governments representing ASEAN, consisting of Brunei Darussalam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Republic of the Union 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 27th ASEAN Summit 2015 in Kuala Lumpur:

REAFFIRMING the Cha-Am Hua Hin Declaration on Strengthening Cooperation on Education to Achieve an ASEAN Caring and Sharing Community, adopted at Cha-Am Hua Hin, Thailand on 24th October 2009;

ACKNOWLEDGING the principles adopted at the Declaration of ASEAN Concord II (Bali Concord II) in Bali, Indonesia on 7th October 2003 to establish the ASEAN Community by 2020;

RECALLING the four priority areas and 20 specific programmes for implementation under the ASEAN Five Year Work Plan on Education 2011-2015;

RECALLING the Bandar Seri Begawan Declaration on Youth Entrepreneurship and Employment, adopted at Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam on 22nd May 2013;

RECALLING the Nay Pyi Taw Declaration on the ASEAN Community's Post-2015 Vision;

RECALLING the Eight Key Elements on Education Adopted at the 8th ASEAN Education Ministers Meeting (ASED) in Lao PDR, September 2014;

WELCOMING the progress made in implementing the Roadmap for the ASEAN Community (2009-2015) as well as other measures and commitment set out in various ASEAN declarations and plans of action;

COMMENDING the on-going efforts in developing the ASEAN 5-Year Work Plan on Education 2016-2020;

STRESSING the importance of cooperation among ASEAN Member States towards formation of the ASEAN Community that is politically cohesive, economically integrated and socially responsible; and

MINDFUL of the changes in societies, challenges in building shared peace, security and prosperity across communities in Southeast Asia, and the need for transformation at regional and global levels,

hereby agree to:

- i. acknowledge higher education as one of the catalysts in accelerating ASEAN's economic, political and sociocultural development agenda;
- ii. uphold quality in the provision of higher education across all member states;
- iii. enhance academic contribution of ASEAN higher education within the global academic community;

- iv. embrace diversity and solidarity of the ASEAN Community through enhanced intra-ASEAN mobility of students and scholars;
- v. contribute to the promotion of peace, prosperity, resilience, and vibrancy of ASEAN through synergised collaboration between the academia, industry, government and community;
- vi. foster sustainable local community development through participation of youth, professionals and volunteers in entrepreneurial endeavours;
- vii. build an innovation-driven ASEAN Community with critical thinking capability and skill through capacity building offered by higher education institutions within ASEAN, such as opportunities for lifelong learning, technical and vocational education and training (TVET), online and blended learning, postgraduate education, transnational education and other flexible learning options;
- viii. contribute to sustainable development through academic programmes, research, community development and stakeholder engagement;
- ix. increase visibility of ASEAN globally through increased thought leadership in various disciplines of higher education at regional and international levels;

WE are committed on the above aspirations and this document serves as the guiding principles in promoting a people-oriented and people-centred ASEAN together with the elements contained in the integral ASEAN Community's Post-2015 document.

WE task the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Education (ASED) to implement this Declaration, guided by the Framework for Implementation of ASEAN Declaration on Higher Education, and report to us regularly through the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Council on the progress of the implementation.

Adopted in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on the Twenty First Day of November in the Year Two Thousand and Fifteen.