

2020 JOINT STATEMENT OF THE ELEVENTH ASEAN PLUS THREE LABOUR MINISTERS MEETING¹

Adopted on 28 October 2020

1. We, the Labour Ministers/Heads of Delegations of ASEAN Plus Three Countries and Secretary General of ASEAN, met at the Eleventh ASEAN Plus Three Ministers Meeting (11th ALMM+3) which was convened virtually on 28 October 2020. The Meeting was chaired by H.E. Ida Fauziyah, Minister of Manpower of Indonesia. It was attended by the Labour Ministers/Heads of Delegations from Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, People's Republic of China, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam, and their respective delegations. The Secretary-General of ASEAN and staff representatives of the ASEAN Secretariat were also in attendance.

EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON PROMOTING ASEAN WORKERS FOR COMPETITIVENESS, RESILIENCE, AND AGILITY IN THE FUTURE OF WORK

2. We shared experiences, ideas, and thoughts to increase the competitiveness, resilience and agility of ASEAN workers in taking advantage of opportunities in the future, and able to withstand the uncertainty of the new challenges in the world of work. We recognised the importance of developing a human-centred approach in preparing ASEAN workers to adapt with the transformative changes, such as technological advances, demographic transition and the rise of green economy.
3. We acknowledged the COVID-19 pandemic's adverse impacts on employment and well-being of workers in our region, which have compelled us to build back better, prepare our workers for safe return to work, and promote resilience of our societies. We agreed to further strengthen active labour market policies to stimulate employment, and improve occupational safety and health standards in the region. We also agreed to widen access of all workers, especially those who lost their jobs or received less income, to social security and social assistance schemes so as to sustain their livelihoods.
4. We expressed our commitment to promote closer cooperation among the ASEAN Plus Three Countries to increase the agility and resilience of our workforce in preparedness for future social and economic crises, and their higher competencies for the future of work. We also expressed our commitment to strengthen our labour policies and measures so as to improve occupational safety and health in the workplace and facilitate safe return to work in post-pandemic.

STATUS OF ASEAN PLUS THREE COOPERATION IN LABOUR

5. We noted with satisfaction the progress of cooperation on labour under the ASEAN Plus Three framework. We reiterated our commitment to promote human resources development, inclusive growth, sustainable development as a response to the ASEAN economic integration, social dialogue, and occupational safety and health in the workplace. We adopted the 5-year priorities of the ASEAN Plus Three cooperation on labour for the period of 2021-2025 to support the attainment of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025.

¹ Thailand endorsed in principle the Joint Statement and will provide its final adoption after obtaining the Cabinet's approval.

6. We noted with appreciation the support of China to implement the “ILO-China Strengthening Skills Development Project in Cambodia, Lao PDR and Myanmar through South-South and Triangular Cooperation” to secure more and better jobs for inclusive growth and improve employment prospects. We noted the successful convening of the International Seminar on Vocational Skills Development in the Context of Industrial Upgrading in Lancang-Mekong Countries under the Belt and Road Framework on 9-10 October 2019 in Kunming and the International Seminar on Vocational Skills Development in Lancang-Mekong Countries under the Belt and Road Framework on 10-11 December 2019 in Guangzhou. We looked forward to the closer cooperation with China in areas of human resources development, occupational safety and health, social security of workers and employment, among others.
7. We appreciated the continuous support of Japan to the ASEAN projects particularly the Study on Old-Age Income Security in ASEAN Member States. Furthermore, we noted with appreciation the contribution through ILO/Japan Multi-bilateral technical cooperation to ASEAN Member States. We noted the successful convening of the 9th ASEAN-ILO/Japan Seminar on Industrial Relations with the theme of “Promoting Sound Industrial Relations through Social Dialogue on Skills Development in the Context of the Future of Work” on 18-19 September 2019, and the 17th ASEAN-Japan High Level Officials Meeting on Caring Societies with the theme of “Healthy and Active Aging towards an Inclusive Society” on 4-6 December 2019 in Nagoya. Additionally, we expressed our appreciation for the continuous support for ASEAN Connectivity as stated in Joint Statement of the 22nd ASEAN-Japan Summit on Connectivity.
8. We noted with appreciation the support of the Republic of Korea to numerous ASEAN initiatives, including the development of the ASEAN Guidelines on Gender Mainstreaming into Labour and Employment Policies to Promote Decent Work for All, the Project on Enhancing the Competitiveness of ASEAN Human Resources through Responsive TVET Curriculum supported by Involvement of Industries and Labour Market Information, and the Knowledge Sharing Programme on Research on Improving Vocational Education and Training System of OSH Officers in CLMV. We noted the successful convening of the Capacity Building Training Programme for Skills Competition on 7-11 October 2019 in Busan and ASEAN+3 HRD Forum on 29-30 October 2019 in Busan which carried the theme “The Future of Work and HRD: Innovation in Skills Development in the Era of the 4IR”.
9. We expressed our sincere appreciation to the Government of Indonesia, particularly the Ministry of Manpower, for the excellent chairmanship and arrangement of the 11th ALMM+3.
10. We agreed to meet again in 2022 under the ALMM Chairmanship of the Philippines.

**LIST OF LABOUR MINISTERS / HEAD OF DELEGATIONS
ATTENDING THE 11TH ASEAN PLUS THREE LABOUR MINISTERS
MEETING (11TH ALMM+3) 28 OCTOBER 2020,
HOSTED VIRTUALLY BY INDONESIA**

- 1. H.E. Pehin Abu Bakar Apong**
Minister of Home Affairs
Brunei Darussalam
- 2. H.E. MAM Vannak**
Secretary of State, Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training
The Kingdom of Cambodia
- 3. H.E. Tao Tang**
Vice Minister of Human Resources and Social Security
People's Republic of China
- 4. H.E. Ida Fauziyah**
Minister of Manpower
The Republic of Indonesia
- 5. H.E. Norihisa Tamura**
Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare
Japan
- 6. H.E. Lee Jae Kap**
Minister of Employment and Labor
The Republic of Korea
- 7. H.E. Dr. Khampheng Saysompheng**
Minister of Labour and Social Welfare
The Lao People's Democratic Republic
- 8. H.E. Tuan Haji Awang Bin Hashim**
Deputy Minister of Human Resources
Malaysia
- 9. H.E. Thein Swe**
Union Minister for Labour, Immigration and Population
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
- 10. H.E. Silvestre H. Bello III**
Secretary of the Department of Labour and Employment
The Republic of the Philippines
- 11. H.E. Josephine Teo**
Minister for Manpower
The Republic of Singapore

12. H.E. Suthi Sukosol

Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Labour
The Kingdom of Thailand

13. H.E. Dao Ngoc Dung

Minister of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs
The Socialist Republic of Viet Nam

14. H.E. Dato Lim Jock Hoi

Secretary-General of ASEAN