

## 2015 JOINT COMMUNIQUE OF THE NINTH ASEAN LAW MINISTERS MEETING

*Adopted in Bali, Indonesia on 22 October 2015*

1. The Ninth ASEAN Law Ministers Meeting (ALAWMM) was held on 22 October 2015 in Bali, Indonesia.
2. The Ministers expressed appreciation to H.E. Jusuf Kalla, Vice President of the Republic of Indonesia for officiating the Meeting and delivering his Opening Remarks. In his remarks, H.E. Jusuf Kalla highlighted the even greater role ALAWMM has to support the attainment of economic prosperity in the region of ASEAN. He went on to say that this depends not only on strong economic-related legal frameworks, but also greatly depends on criminal justice legal framework. He also recognised that rule of law is the key factor to progress the endeavor of ASEAN in accelerating ASEAN integration and attaining its goals. He noted that ALAWMM's tasks in promoting progressive development of international law within ASEAN region but it has never been an easy task. Therefore, he encouraged the Ministers to take the appropriate course of action for ALAWMM to work closely with other sectoral bodies of ASEAN, and also take a proactive step to engage in cooperation with other regional and international organisations in order to provide a robust legal and institutional framework for sustainable economic growth.
3. The Meeting was chaired by H.E. Yasonna H. Laoly, Minister of Law and Human Rights, Republic of Indonesia and attended by H.E. Datin Seri Paduka Hayati Salleh, Attorney General of Brunei Darussalam, H.E. Ngor Sovann, Minister Attached to the Prime Minister, Secretary of State, Ministry of Justice, Kingdom of Cambodia, H.E. Ket Kiettisak, Vice-Minister of Justice, Lao People's Democratic Republic, H.E. Hajah Nancy binti Shukri, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department of Malaysia, H.E. Tun Tun Oo, Deputy Attorney-General, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, H.E. Francisco F. Baraan III, Undersecretary, Department of Justice, Philippines, H.E. Tan Siong Thye, SC, Deputy Attorney-General, Republic of Singapore, H.E. Gen. Paiboon Koomchaya, Minister of Justice, Kingdom of Thailand, H.E. Nguyen Khanh Ngoc, Vice-Minister of Justice of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, and H.E. AKP Mochtan, Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN.
4. The Ministers reviewed the progress of the implementation of cooperation programmes and activities under the purview of the ASEAN Law Ministers Meeting (ALAWMM) since their last meeting on 4-5 November 2011 in Cambodia. They took note of updates on the implementation of various initiatives of ALAWMM such as ASEAN Government Law Directory, ASEAN Legal Information Authority (ALIA), ASEAN Government Legal Officers' Programmes (AGLOP) and Exchange of Study Visits.
5. The Ministers were encouraged by achievements in the area of combating transnational crimes, in particular the ratification by all ASEAN Member States of the Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters Among Like-minded ASEAN Member Countries (MLAT) and also the ASEAN Convention Against Trafficking in Persons which will soon be signed by the ASEAN Leaders. The Ministers noted the progress of work by the ASLOM Working Groups on the Model ASEAN Extradition Treaty; Examining Modalities for Harmonisation of ASEAN Trade Laws; and Strengthening Judicial Assistance in Civil and Commercial Matters among ASEAN Member States.
6. The Ministers noted the preliminary work of ASLOM in relation to Maritime Security and Conservation of the Coastal and Marine Environment, and the positive exchange of views on the Liberalisation of Legal Professions in ASEAN Member States.
7. The Ministers reiterated their commitment to work towards elevating the MLAT into an ASEAN instrument while taking note of the consensus that has been reached by the 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Attorneys-General/Ministers of Justice/Ministers of Law of the parties to the MLAT.

8. The Ministers acknowledged the work of the Working Group on the Model ASEAN Extradition Treaty and urged the Working Group to expedite their deliberation and finalise the text of the Model ASEAN Extradition Treaty at their next meeting that will be hosted by Singapore. The Ministers noted with satisfaction that ASEAN Member States shall endeavour to make extradition mechanisms available between them, taking into consideration the principles set out in the Model ASEAN Extradition Treaty where appropriate, and the possibility for a legally binding ASEAN Extradition Treaty.
9. The Ministers encouraged ASEAN Member States to consider the possibility of acceding to the Hague Convention on Abolishing the Requirement of Legalisation for Foreign Public Documents.
10. The Ministers noted new ALAWMM's initiatives and proposals that are being implemented and/or developed can significantly contribute to the ongoing efforts to strengthen legal and institutional framework of ASEAN and its Member States, aiming to transform ASEAN into a more rules-based community. They were pleased to note that through an initiative of ALAWMM, the judiciaries in ASEAN Member States have also gathered among themselves in the Court Excellence and Judicial Cooperation Forums to share best practices and exchange views of common concern and interest in anticipation of the ASEAN Community 2015 and beyond.
11. The Ministers took note with keen interest of developments in ASEAN, in particular in the area of law and legal developments and cooperation. They were pleased with ASEAN's success in the implementation of integration agenda and realisation of the ASEAN Community comprising ASEAN Political-Security Community (APSC), ASEAN Economic Community (AEC), and ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) by the end of 2015.
12. The Ministers noted the progress on the development of ASEAN agenda beyond 2015, and expressed their readiness to support the decisions and visions of ASEAN Leaders as set out in the proposed ASEAN Community Vision 2025. To this end, the Ministers pledged their commitment to contribute more to the ASEAN Community in the area of law and legal matters.
13. The Ministers reviewed the work of ASLOMM and endorsed the reports of the 15th ASLOM held on 4-5 December 2013 in Vientiane, Lao PDR and the 16<sup>th</sup> ASLOM held on 19-20 October 2015 in Bali, Indonesia.
14. The Ministers thanked Malaysia for offering to host the 17<sup>th</sup> ASLOM in 2017 and Lao PDR for offering to host the 18<sup>th</sup> ASLOM and the 10<sup>th</sup> ALAWMM in 2018.