

# 2018 ASEAN DECLARATION ON CRUISE TOURISM

*Adopted in Chiang Mai, Thailand on 25 January 2018*

**We**, the Tourism Ministers of the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (hereinafter referred to as “ASEAN”), namely 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 (hereinafter referred to collectively as “ASEAN Member States”), gathered in Chiang Mai, Thailand, on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2018 for the Twenty-First Meeting of ASEAN Tourism Ministers;

**SUPPORTING** the ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint 2025 focusing efforts on enhancing the competitiveness of ASEAN as a single tourism destination;

**RECOGNISING** the importance of tourism to the economic development of ASEAN;

**ENCOURAGED** by the continued high economic tourism growth generated by the cruise tourism industry in ASEAN;

**DESIRING** to further develop and strengthen cruise tourism due to its high economic growth generated in ASEAN; and

**DETERMINED** to encourage growth through collaboration among ASEAN Member States and cruise industry stakeholders and spur cruise port and destination related developments through enhancing confidence in the cruise tourism development of the ASEAN Member States.

## **DO HEREBY ENDEAVOUR TO:**

1. Apply fair business practices to visitors, guests, employees, vendors, contractors, agents, business partners, the local society, and the global community. This includes (but is not limited to) transparency in business transactions, and fees charged and received.
2. Provide greater clarity and transparency to users of the ports in areas such as (but not limited to) port fees, berthing guidelines, and immigration procedures, making them available in a prompt, transparent and readily accessible manner.
3. Ensure the consistent application of their respective national laws, regulations, policies and administrative guidelines across all cruise points of entry into their territory to minimise confusion for cruise ships calling at different ports within the State. This includes (but is not limited to) the consistent application of port charges and immigration procedures at a national level.
4. Implement efficient administration and procedures to support cruise tourism in the region, such as providing adequate advance notice of the confirmation of berth bookings, and identifying a single point of contact to facilitate all cruise related issues/discussions.
5. Support capacity building and exchange of best practices of cruise industries. This includes (but not limited to) partnering the cruise industry to raise travel trade capabilities and understanding port infrastructure and technical requirements to raise competencies towards cruise tourism.

6. Accelerate cruise tourism development, focusing on the effectiveness of tourism destination management by considering environmental and social sustainability issues, as well as the welfare of local communities.

**ADOPTED** in Chiang Mai, Thailand, on Twenty-Fifth day of January in the year Two Thousand and Eighteen, in a single original copy, in the English language.