

2008 MANILA DECLARATION ON INTENSIFYING ASEAN MINERALS COOPERATION

Adopted in Manila, Philippines on 16 October 2008

WE, the Ministers responsible for minerals and mines representing the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), on the occasion of the 2nd ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Minerals (AMMin) on 16 October 2008 in Manila, Philippines;

RECALLING the Cebu Declaration on the Acceleration of the Establishment of an ASEAN Community by 2015 as adopted at the 12th ASEAN Summit in Cebu, Philippines, in January 2007, comprising of the three pillars of the ASEAN Economic Community, ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community and ASEAN Security Community.

REAFFIRMING our collective commitment to strengthen the ASEAN minerals cooperation as embodied in the Ministerial Understanding on ASEAN Cooperation in Minerals as adopted at the 1st ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Minerals (AMMin) in Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia, in August 2005;

WELCOMING the adoption of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) Blueprint at the 13th ASEAN Summit in Singapore in November 2007 which aims to transform the ASEAN into a single market and production base, a highly competitive economic region, a region of equitable economic development, and a region fully integrated into the global economy;

AFFIRMING our strong support to the ASEAN Minerals Sector as a vibrant force in the establishment of the ASEAN Economic Community by 2015;

COMMITTED to the timely implementation of the major cooperation programmes and activities embodied in the AEC ASEAN Minerals Cooperation Scorecard 2009-2011, adopted at the 2nd ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Minerals in Manila, Philippines, on 16 October 2008, as the successor plan to the ASEAN Minerals Cooperation Action Plan 2005-2010;

DO HEREBY ADOPT THE FOLLOWING POLICY DIRECTIONS TO INTENSIFY COOPERATION IN THE ASEAN MINERALS SECTOR:

1. **ENSURE** continuous development and utilisation of the mineral resources of the ASEAN Member States to enhance the sustainability of the resources and maximise the benefits to the community and the national economy, providing the necessary safety net and shield from global financial and economic turmoil;
2. **ACCELERATE** cooperation to work towards the facilitation and enhancement of trade and investments in minerals through harmonisation of mineral policies, incentives and taxation, standardisation of mineral resource information, and systematised flow and exchange of resource and trade information;
3. **ENCOURAGE** cooperation to develop policy guidelines and standards for ASEAN Best Mining Practices to promote environmentally and socially sustainable mineral development in the ASEAN region;
4. **STRENGTHEN** the development of institutional and human capacity building in the geological and minerals sector to ensure and adequately address the current needs and future demands of the ASEAN minerals industry and economy;

5. **PROMOTE** a platform for dialogue in which the private sector and ASEAN Dialogue Partners can more effectively and efficiently collaborate in mutually beneficial minerals cooperation activities in support of the building up of the ASEAN Community;

6. **FOSTER** concerted cooperation and joint approaches in international and regional fora in minerals such as in Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) activities and the forthcoming United Nations Committee on Sustainable Development's Meeting in 2010, among others;

ADOPTED at the Second ASEAN Ministerial Meeting in Minerals (AMMin) on this Sixteenth Day of October in the [Year Two Thousand and Eight in Manila, Philippines].