

# **2021 JOINT MINISTERIAL STATEMENT OF THE TWENTY-SEVENTH ASEAN TRANSPORT MINISTERS MEETING**

*Issued on 11 November 2021*

1. The Twenty-Seventh ASEAN Transport Ministers (ATM) Meeting was held on 11 November 2021 via video conference. H.E. Mr. SUN Chanthol, Senior Minister, Minister of Public Works and Transport of Cambodia chaired the Meeting and H.E. Mr. Budi Karya Sumadi, Minister of Transportation of Indonesia was the Vice-Chairman. The Twenty-Seventh ATM Meeting was preceded by the Fifty-Second ASEAN Senior Transport Officials Meeting (STOM) and their consultations with dialogue partners held on 2-3 November 2021.

## **REAFFIRMING THE COMMITMENTS IN COVID-19 RECOVERY EFFORTS**

2. The Meeting welcomed the adoption of the COVID-19 Recovery Guidelines for Resilient and Sustainable International Road Freight Transport Connectivity in ASEAN by the STOM, which would support ASEAN Member States in responding to the pandemic crisis in the three (3) priority areas, namely: (i) transport workers' safety and training; (ii) preserving road freight connectivity; and (iii) building back better through digital, resilient and decarbonised road freight connectivity.

## **ENHANCING THE DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION IN ASEAN**

3. The Meeting was guided by the outcome of the 38<sup>th</sup> and 39<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summits held on 26 October 2021 on advancing digital transformation and further reaffirmed that the digital transformation is a cross-cutting issue that requires coordinated actions from the transport sector as well. Moving forward, a Special Meeting between ASEAN Transport Ministers, and Dialogue Partners and Development Partners would be held under the theme "Accelerating the Digital Transformation for a More Resilient Transport and Logistics in ASEAN Region" in conjunction with the 27<sup>th</sup> ATM to strengthen partnerships, be better connected, help economies grow and become more competitive, achieve sustainable development, and, more importantly, to emerge stronger from the pandemic crisis.

## **STRENGTHENING THE ASEAN SINGLE AVIATION MARKET**

4. The Meeting concluded the Protocol to implement the Twelfth Package of Commitments on Air Transport Services under the ASEAN Framework Agreement on Services (AFAS), which would be subsequently signed by means of circulation, to facilitate its implementation to further liberalise air transport ancillary services in ASEAN.
5. The Meeting noted the steady progress of the implementation of the ASEAN Air Navigation Service Master Plan which aims to achieve the objectives of Seamless Air Traffic Management in the areas of safety, interoperability, harmonisation, environment, capacity and efficiency, as well as to enhance the Seamless ASEAN Sky which in turn supports the establishment of ASEAN Single Aviation Market.

6. Following the signing of the Mutual Recognition Arrangement on Flight Crew Licensing (MRA on FCL) overarching framework agreement and adoption of the Implementing Protocol-1 (IP1): Qualification of Flight Simulation Training Devices and IP2: Aviation Training Organisations, to advance the implementation of MRA on FCL, the Meeting tasked the STOM and relevant working groups to keep up the good work by developing the subsequent IPs aimed at ensuring the highest degree of safety in line with the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Standards and Recommended Practices, and maximising the potential benefits of regulatory cooperation and convergence in ASEAN.

#### **ENHANCING ASEAN LAND TRANSPORT NETWORK AND FACILITATION OF CROSS-BORDER TRANSPORT OF GOODS**

7. The Meeting welcomed the full ratification and entry into force of Protocol 2 (Designation of Frontier Posts) of the ASEAN Framework Agreement on the Facilitation of Goods in Transit (AFAFGIT) in all ASEAN Member States and looked forward to the full ratification of AFAFGIT Protocol 6 (Railways Border and Interchange Stations) to complete ratification of all implementing protocols under AFAFGIT.
8. The Meeting was pleased to note implementation of ASEAN Customs Transit System (ACTS) despite COVID-19's cross-border transport restrictions and called for intensified coordination between transport and customs officials to synergise the efforts to increase ACTS utilisation by the private sector.

#### **INTEGRATING SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT AND LAND USE PLANNING**

9. The Meeting adopted two (2) sustainable transport related documents, namely: (i) the Guidelines for the Development of Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans (SUMP) in ASEAN Metropolitan Regions, which provides guidance on the use of collaborative planning tools to design and implement integrated urban mobility and land use planning measures; and (ii) the Toolbox for the Establishment of Metropolitan Transport Executives (MTE) in ASEAN Metropolitan Regions, which serves as a tool for ASEAN Member States to develop a comprehensive metropolitan mobility plan to support the management of inter-agencies and multi-disciplinary issues relating to metropolitan transport systems in medium-sized metropolitan regions in ASEAN.
10. The Meeting issued the Phnom Penh Declaration on Sustainable Urban Mobility, which aims to promote the development and operationalisation of SUMP and MTE model in ASEAN Member States to further enhance integration of sustainable transport and land use planning in ASEAN.

#### **TOWARDS GREATER MARITIME TRANSPORT CONNECTIVITY AND INTEGRATION**

11. The Meeting was pleased to note the results of analysis on Key Performance Indicator (KPI) of ASEAN Network Ports, which show an upward movement in overall trend performance in all indicators from 2005-2019. The Meeting thanked ROK for the technical assistance in conducting the analysis and urged the ports that are operating below optimum levels to review existing operations, procedures, and facilities to enhance port efficiency.
12. The Meeting noted with appreciation the completion of the initiative to review existing statistics, policies, and programmes related to maritime transport safety at the regional and national levels. The Meeting recognised the importance of having robust maritime safety management systems and contingency plans to mitigate unexpected maritime incidents.

13. The Meeting noted with concern the global container shortage issue, resulted in an increase in freight shipping costs, that is negatively impacting regional trade, and appreciated the efforts by ASEAN Member States to share best practices and countermeasures in response. The Meeting looked forward to commencing the webinar and practical study to better understand this transboundary issue, and to provide policy recommendations to enhance container shipping to mitigate the negative impacts.

## **TRANSPORT COOPERATION WITH DIALOGUE PARTNERS**

14. With regard to the ongoing Air Services Agreement (ASA) negotiations with the Dialogue Partners (DPs), namely Japan, New Zealand and ROK, the Meeting urged the relevant working groups to continue working towards the successful conclusion of a more liberal and mutually beneficial ASA with a view to enhancing air connectivity between ASEAN and the DPs.
15. With China, the Meeting welcomed the adoption of the draft 2021-2025 Action Programme of the Revised Strategic Plan for ASEAN-China Transport Cooperation and tasked the senior officials to strengthen coordination with China to implement the identified cooperation projects effectively.
16. With the EU, the Meeting was pleased to note that the negotiation on ASEAN-EU Comprehensive Air Transport Agreement (AE CATA) was successfully concluded at the Extraordinary ASEAN-EU Senior Transport Officials Meeting held virtually on 2 June 2021. The Meeting further noted the successful completion of the legal scrubbing of AE CATA, and looked forward to finalising the Record of Statements (ROS) and signing of the said agreement and ROS at the earliest possible time, to strengthen air connectivity between ASEAN and Europe, and also to reap further economic and social benefits. The Meeting thanked the EU for the technical assistance rendered through ASEAN Regional Integration Support by the EU (ARISE) Plus Programme, and the Enhanced Regional EU-ASEAN Dialogue Instrument (E-READI) to advance various ASEAN initiatives.
17. The Meeting welcomed the commencing of the ASEAN-EU Maritime Dialogue on the Implementation of Maritime Labour Convention (MLC) 2006, which would provide ASEAN Member States the opportunity to exchange best practices and learn from the EU's experience regarding the application and enforcement of MLC 2006 provisions. The Meeting looked forward to the launching of the Study to assess the state of play of the MLC 2006 implementation in ASEAN Member States and to develop recommendations for more effective and efficient implementation practices moving forward.
18. The Meeting noted with satisfaction the progress of ASEAN-Japan cooperation through the successful implementation of the ASEAN-Japan Transport Partnership (AJTP) Work Plan for 2020-2021 and its two (2) deliverables, namely: (i) Report on Proof of Concept (PoC) on ICT Solutions for Over-loaded Vehicle Control; and (ii) ASEAN-Japan Certification Audit Guidelines on Cold Chain Logistics Standards. The Meeting also welcomed the new initiative on Utilisation of Big Data to Improve Mobility under the AJTP Work Plan for 2021-2022.
19. With ROK, the Meeting was pleased to note the progress of implementation of the projects and activities under the ASEAN-ROK Transport Cooperation Roadmap 2021-2025, particularly the implementation of several projects under the human resources development programme as well as the technology and management programmes in 2021.

20. With the United States (U.S.), the Meeting welcomed the proposed ASEAN-U.S. formal dialogue on transportation which will start at the senior transport official level. The Meeting looked forward to the adoption of the Terms of Reference (TOR) and the Work Plan for ASEAN-U.S. Transport Cooperation at the 1<sup>st</sup> ASEAN and the U.S. Senior Transport Officials Dialogue (ASEAN-U.S. STOD) in 2022, which would promote and deepen ASEAN-U.S. transport cooperation by supporting the Kuala Lumpur Transport Strategic Plan (KLTSP) 2016-2025 as well as strengthening mutually beneficial strategic partnership.

#### **THE TWENTY-EIGHTH ATM MEETING**

21. The Meeting agreed to convene the Twenty-Eighth ATM Meeting in Indonesia in 2022.
22. The delegates from ASEAN Member States and the ASEAN Secretariat expressed their sincere appreciation to the Government and people of the Kingdom of Cambodia for the excellent arrangements made for the Meeting.