

2018 CHAIR’S SUMMARY OF SPECIAL ASEAN MINISTERIAL MEETING ON CLIMATE ACTION AND EXPANDED ASEAN MINISTERIAL MEETING ON CLIMATE ACTION

Issued in Singapore on 10 July 2018

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INTRODUCTION

1. Ministers and representatives from ASEAN Member States (AMS) and the ASEAN Secretary-General met in Singapore on 10 July 2018 to attend the Special ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Climate Action (SAMCA). This was followed by an Expanded SAMCA (E-SAMCA), which was attended by Ministers and representatives from the ASEAN Plus Three (APT), the current and incoming Presidencies of the 23rd (Fiji) and 24th (Poland) Conference of the Parties (COP) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the UNFCCC Executive Secretary.
2. Singapore, as Chair of ASEAN, convened the SAMCA and E-SAMCA to provide ASEAN and its Plus Three partners a platform to engage each other in a regional “*Talanoa*”¹ dialogue on their climate action plans; reaffirm their commitment to the Paris Agreement; and galvanise regional action to address climate change during a critical year for the international negotiations.

DISCUSSIONS AT THE SAMCA

3. In keeping with the spirit of the Talanoa concept², the SAMCA focused discussion on the benefits of ASEAN's collective efforts and how these would contribute to international momentum on climate action. They also touched on the key questions related to the Talanoa Dialogue process.

Where are we? - ASEAN is vulnerable to the impacts of climate change

4. During the meeting, ASEAN Ministers and representatives expressed grave concern about the multi-faceted impacts of climate change throughout the ASEAN region as outlined in the Assessment Reports (AR) of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and their disproportionate and adverse effects on vulnerable and marginalised groups namely women, children, older persons, persons with disability, farmers, fisher folk, persons in conflict-affected communities and those parts of basic sectors.
5. AMS noted that according to Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC's) Fifth Assessment Report (AR5), climate change was already evident in Southeast Asia where temperature has been increasing at a rate of 0.14°C to 0.20°C per decade since the 1960s, coupled with a rising number of hot days and warm nights, and a decline in cooler weather. Based on IPCC projections, mean annual temperatures could increase in excess of 3°C in Southeast Asia by the mid-21st century. During the meeting, a presentation by the Centre for Climate Research Singapore also highlighted that long-records of observation of weather stations in the region showed uptrends in extreme temperatures (5-10% increase/decade) and rainfall (50-100 mm/decade), and a projected sea-level rise of up to 1.0 m by 2100. It is evident from these studies that Southeast Asia

¹ The “*Talanoa*” Dialogue (originally referred to as the 2018 facilitative dialogue) is an exercise amongst Parties to the UNFCCC, to take stock of the collective efforts of Parties in relation to the goals of the Paris Agreement. Named by the Presidency of COP23, “*Talanoa*” is a traditional word used in Fiji and across the Pacific to reflect a process of inclusive, participatory and transparent dialogue.

² Refer to Annex II of Decision1/CP.23.

has much to lose if no action was taken to reduce global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from their current levels.

Where do we want to go? – Achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement

6. Given ASEAN's vulnerabilities, AMS noted that without urgent climate action, the impacts of climate change on the region will be much larger in the future. In this context, AMS welcomed the commitment by the Parties to the UNFCCC to enhance the implementation of the Convention as reflected in the rapid entry into force of the Paris Agreement on 4 November 2016. AMS reiterated their support for the aims of the Paris Agreement to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change, including:
 - (a) Holding the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, recognising that this would significantly reduce the risks and impacts of climate change;
 - (b) Increasing the ability to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change and foster climate resilience and low GHG emissions development, in a manner that does not threaten food production; and
 - (c) Making finance flows consistent with a pathway towards low GHG emissions and climate-resilient development.
7. In view of the 2018 deadline for the conclusion of the Paris Agreement Work Programme, AMS also called on UNFCCC Parties to continue working effectively and in good faith on developing mechanisms, modalities, procedures and guidelines towards the implementation of the Paris Agreement. This should take into account the principles of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities (CBDR-RC), the need for a balanced outcome, and the provision of appropriate flexibilities to ASEAN and other developing country Parties as provided for under the Paris Agreement.

How do we get there? – AMS are taking actions to address climate change

8. Recalling previous ASEAN Joint Statements on Climate Change and ASEAN Leaders Statements on Climate Change to the UNFCCC, AMS noted that stewardship for climate change was being driven at the highest political levels - by ASEAN Heads of States and Governments.
9. AMS highlighted that they were playing their part in global efforts to address climate change, and underscored that the principle of ASEAN Centrality should continue to undergird these regional efforts. On a collective level, AMS have proactively undertaken substantive actions to address climate change in a timely manner by:
 - Submitting Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs);
 - Signing the Paris Agreement on 22 April 2016 in New York, USA;
 - Implementing the ASEAN Community Roadmap 2009-2015 including ASEAN Action Plan on Joint Response to Climate Change (AAP-JRCC), the ASEAN Forging Ahead Together 2025, and developing the ASEAN Post-2015 Strategic Plan on Environment (ASPEN), and ASEAN-UN Action Plan on Environment and Climate Change 2016-2020;
 - Promoting sustainable management of forests that will contribute towards reducing deforestation and forest degradation, and also the enhancement of carbon sink capacity,

- carbon stocks as well as social and other environmental benefits through domestic efforts, and international cooperation;
- Promoting the use of sustainable energy sources and green technology; and
 - Engaging actively in the post-COP21 UNFCCC negotiations on the modalities, rules, procedures, and guidelines for the implementation of the Paris Agreement.
10. AMS have also committed to pursue efforts to reduce energy intensity in the ASEAN region by 20% from 2005 levels by 2020. In addition, ASEAN has an aspirational target to increase the component of renewable energy to 23% by 2025 in the ASEAN Energy Mix. AMS are also actively implementing the ASEAN Plan of Action for Energy Cooperation 2016-2025 which serves as a blueprint for better regional cooperation towards enhancing energy security, accessibility, affordability and sustainability for all.
11. At the technical level, AMS have been working together through the ASEAN Working Group on Climate Change (AWGCC). At the meeting, Singapore as Chair of the AWGCC, presented an update on the AWGCC's work and highlighted that the AWGCC has advanced its work along three key thrusts: (i) enhancing regional climate change cooperation through the AWGCC Action Plan; (ii) promoting collaboration amongst ASEAN sectoral bodies to address climate change issues; and (iii) articulating ASEAN's climate change concerns and priorities at international platforms. Some of the expected outcomes from AWGCC's projects and activities include strengthening AMS capacity for the implementation of NDCs; sharing best practices related to climate change finance, mitigation and adaptation; building AMS' capacity on carbon-pricing and laying the foundation for possible cooperation on carbon pricing at the regional level. These initiatives are aimed at enhancing ASEAN's capabilities to address the adverse impact of climate change and to take effective climate actions.
12. During the meeting, AMS also shared their national efforts in addressing climate change. All AMS have ratified the Paris Agreement, and most have developed or are in the process of implementing national climate change strategies. Many AMS indicated that they have integrated climate change into their development and environmental agendas, and spoke of how they were mainstreaming climate change considerations into national and sub-national developmental plans. Some of the measures taken by AMS to reduce GHG emissions include: increasing the share of renewable energy in their energy mixes; deploying large-scale solar projects; improving energy efficiency in industries and buildings; placing a price on carbon; undertaking REDD+ strategies and setting aside more forests to be protected and conserved.
13. Given ASEAN's vulnerability to the adverse impacts of climate change, AMS are also working to mainstream climate change risk management and GHG reduction in sectoral planning. AMS are also in the process of establishing national institutional frameworks or adaptation strategies to identify climate risks and formulate adaptation initiatives for implementation. Several AMS are in the process of, or would soon be, formulating their National Adaptation Plans for submission to the UNFCCC, which would build on earlier identified national adaptation priorities and actions. Some AMS also highlighted their efforts in improving transparency as well as the monitoring and review of the implementation of their NDCs.
14. In sum, Ministers and representatives from ASEAN reaffirmed their commitment to the full and effective implementation of the Paris Agreement. In view of ASEAN's vulnerabilities, AMS also reiterated the need to strengthen ASEAN's capability and capacity to respond to the adverse effect of climate change, by facilitating the sharing of information and best practices to enhance the implementation of the Paris Agreement and NDCs in order to build climate resilient communities in Southeast Asia. Recognising that there was a need to transition to a low-emissions, climate resilient

global economy, the meeting also stressed the importance for adequate attention to be paid to both mitigation commitments and adaptation efforts.

DISCUSSIONS AT THE E-SAMCA

15. At the E-SAMCA, the Plus Three countries joined ASEAN in reaffirming their commitment to the full and effective implementation of the Paris Agreement. The Plus Three countries shared with AMS their climate actions in support of global efforts to accelerate the implementation of the Paris Agreement, including submitting and implementing their NDCs and pre-2020 pledges. They also reiterated their support for the actions that AMS were taking and discussed how APT could strengthen its cooperation to address climate change. Input to the meeting, as earlier provided by the Plus Three countries are in Annexes I (People's Republic of China), II (Japan) and III (Republic of Korea).
16. Nationally, the Plus Three countries shared that they were taking ambitious action to address climate change. They highlighted the need to mainstream climate action in development plans and maximise synergies between different policy sectors. All Plus Three countries indicated that they have vigorous national strategies for combatting climate change and achieving their NDCs. On the mitigation front, they have applied market-based tools and mechanisms, e.g. the establishment of national emissions trading schemes/systems and/or the joint crediting mechanism.
17. The Plus Three countries shared their view that the move towards a low-carbon economy had to make business sense so as to better engage the private sector to drive climate action. They also underscored the need for green financing and to encourage investments in low-carbon and energy-efficient technologies, and outlined the initiatives they were taking to accelerate the commercialisation of innovative technologies, such as floating offshore wind turbines.
18. The Plus Three countries also briefed AMS on their strategies to make their economies more climate resilient, including developing national adaptation plans. Some Plus Three countries emphasised the need to scale-up investment in this area, including enhancing capacity for preventing disasters and reducing damages, and improving agriculture, forestry, and water conservancy facilities.
19. The Plus Three countries indicated that regional and South-South cooperation are instrumental to enhancing global efforts to accelerate the implementation of the Paris Agreement. Some steps taken included: (a) enhancing developing countries' capacity in policy planning, adaptation, mobilising finance resource and transparency etc.; (b) assisting developing countries to achieve their mitigation targets; and (c) sharing experiences in low-carbon transformation and building climate-resilient economies. They underscored their commitment to cooperate with and, where appropriate, support AMS, in their efforts to transition to low-carbon, climate resilient economies. Some Plus Three countries noted that they had established platforms to support AMS's climate efforts in key areas such as transparency, adaptation and mitigation. Some Plus Three countries also indicated openness to deepen cooperation with ASEAN on broader environmental issues, including microplastics and marine debris.
20. The meeting agreed that enhanced cooperation between AMS and Plus Three countries would benefit the region's efforts to address climate change and agreed to continue dialogue and cooperation on climate change matters.

CONCLUSION

21. 2018 is a critical year in the international climate change process, where Parties are due to conclude the Paris Agreement Work Programme and undertake the political phase of the Talanoa Dialogue to consider ways to increase climate action and ambition. A strong global response to climate change requires the universal and effective implementation of the Paris Agreement. The SAMCA and E-SAMCA provided a useful regional platform for countries in the region to share best practices and discuss how the region could work together to push for the full and effective implementation of the Paris Agreement.

22. At the meetings, ASEAN and the Plus Three countries underscored their commitment to work closely with Fiji, Poland and the UNFCCC to sustain the momentum for climate action and support their efforts to achieve a meaningful and successful outcome in Katowice. This would be important in sending a clear and consistent signal to all our stakeholders - citizens, businesses, markets and civil society - that the momentum for climate action is irreversible.

ANNEX I: INPUT RECEIVED FROM THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA FOR THE E-SAMCA

For the first time in the world, China came up with the concept of ecological civilization, and established the five-sphere integrated plan, which coordinates the economic, political, cultural, social, and ecological advancement. At the meantime, China has mainstreamed climate change into the ecological civilization as one of its key tasks and has taken substantial efforts to address this issue. As of 2017, China's carbon dioxide emission per unit of GDP has decreased by 46% comparing with the level of 2005, the share of non-fossil fuel in primary energy consumption has increased to 13.8%, the area of forest coverage has enlarged by 32.78 million hectares and the forest stock volume has increased by 2.68 billion cubic meter since 2005, laying a solid basis for the implementation of its NDC. Guided by the goals of building a community with a shared future for mankind and a clean and beautiful world, China will continuously strengthen its domestic endeavor and international cooperation to achieve the goals of Convention, Paris Agreement, and its NDCs.

Improving top-level design. China will implement vigorous national strategy for combating climate change, and will formulate staged targets and regional targets. The climate targets will play a leading role in social-economic development, and is a strict restriction and a strong force for high-quality development.

Maximizing synergies among policies. The impacts and risks imposed by climate change on social-economic development, energy, ecology and environment, food security, and the safety of lives and property will be considered in a holistic way. The synergies among climate change policies, reducing air pollution, optimizing industry structure, improving quality of economic increase, and enhancing public facilities and services will be maximized.

Strengthening statistics and evaluation mechanism. China will implement its NDC targets with steady steps by continuously including carbon intensity targets, non-fossil fuel share, forest coverage, and forest stock volume as obligatory targets of national economic and social development plan, and establishing a target-oriented responsibility system.

Applying market-based tools. Since 2011, China has carried out pilot Emission Trading System in seven provinces/cities. At the end of 2017, the national emission trading system of China was launched officially. At the current stage, around 1,700 companies from the power sector, accounting for more than 30% of national emissions, were regulated by the national ETS. A step-wise approach will be taken to enhance and enlarge the national ETS, provided that the system runs stably.

Scaling-up climate investment. For adaptation, China will increase public input for early warning and forecasting of natural disasters, enhancing capacity of preventing disasters and reducing damages, and improving agriculture, forestry, and water conservancy facilities. For profitable sectors, including energy saving, energy efficiency, and new energy, etc., incentive policies including fiscal tools, tax, pricing, as well as credit and loan, will be applied to encourage enterprise investment, to stimulate technology innovation, and to accelerate the transformation and upgrade.

Accelerating the implementation of the Paris Agreement. The Paris Agreement is a hard-won of the multilateral process, China will work with all partners to promote the implementation of the Convention and its Paris Agreement, and to combat the common challenge under an equitable, justified, cooperative, and win-win global climate governance regime.

Enhancing south-south cooperation. China has helped to train more than 1300 officials and technicians from more than 100 developing countries, and has donated energy-efficient and low-carbon goods to dozens of developing countries, and is cooperating with some developing countries in building low-carbon pilot zones. China will continue to do its best to enhance developing countries' capacity of policy planning, adaptation, mobilizing finance resource, and transparency, etc., to assist developing countries to achieve their mitigation targets at the meantime of achieving goals of economic development, ecology and environment protection, and energy access, and to share experiences in low-carbon transformation and building climate-resilience.

ANNEX II: INPUT RECEIVED FROM JAPAN FOR E-SAMCA

ASEAN-Japan Climate Change Action Agenda

The Ministry of the Environment Japan (MOEJ) aims to strengthen the regional cooperation on climate change with ASEAN through the three pillars of action agenda including transparency, adaptation and mitigation to enhance co-innovation by using Japanese advanced low/zero carbon and resilient technologies. This action agenda is one of the priority areas in the “ASEAN-Japan Environmental Cooperation Initiative” presented by the Prime Minister Abe during the 20th ASEAN Plus Three Summit in 2017.

1. Transparency

MOEJ has been implementing the Partnership to Strengthen Transparency for Co-Innovation (PaSTI) since the UNFCCC COP23. It will support the development and use of critical tools including guidelines and methodologies for the national governments and the private sector to reinforce the initiative of compatible Monitoring Reporting and Verification systems and enhance cooperative climate actions across the ASEAN Member States (AMS).

2. Adaptation

MOEJ will support the AMS to build capacity to plan and implement adaptation activities so as to develop bankable adaptation projects and encourage the private sector to invest in adaptation projects with the “Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Platform (AP-PLAT).” Japan will also support the development and implementation of disaster risk assessment and climate risk mapping, so that the AMS can adapt to increasing climate and water related disasters.

3. Mitigation

Japan has been working together with many AMS through the Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM) that facilitates transfer of advanced low/zero carbon technologies. Japan will further promote JCM projects and develop models for co-innovation through collaboration among AMS, Japan and non-state actors, and will support their application in the AMS, which lead to accelerated creation of markets for low/zero-carbon products, services, and technologies.

Japan is convinced that ASEAN-Japan Climate Change Action Agenda will contribute to enhance the regional cooperation regarding climate actions and improve the environmental infrastructure in AMS.

In addition to the regional cooperation, Japan will further promote drastic GHG emission reduction both domestically and globally.³ Japan accelerates commercialization of innovative technologies such as floating offshore wind turbines, and will support their application toward building carbon neutral future compatible with the goal of the Paris Agreement.

³ For more detail Japanese domestic actions, please see the Japanese submission to the Talanoa Dialogue Platform; https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/249_Submission%20for%20Talanoa%20Dialogue%20-Talanoa%20JAPAN-.pdf

ANNEX III: INPUT RECEIVED FROM THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA FOR E-SAMCA

Actions by the Republic of Korea

Energy Transition Policies

- Of the total greenhouse gas emissions in Korea as of 2015, energy sector was the main source taking up 87% of the total. It is evident that transition towards ecofriendly and clean energy is required which will expedite Korea's effort to fulfill its NDC and increase its ambition level.
- To enable this paradigm shift, Korea established a plan to increase renewable energy sources up to 20% in its energy mix by 2030.

Consistent Measures for Climate Change Response

- Based on its National Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Roadmap set out in December 2016, Korea is upgrading this Roadmap in accordance with the principle of "progression" of the Paris Agreement as well as its new energy transition policies.
- Korea introduced its Emission Trading Scheme in 2015 and nearly 70% of the nation's total emissions is subject to the scheme. The scheme has contributed to motivating technological innovations of the business sector and expanding investments in energy efficient industries and greener economy.
- Moreover, Korea's Sustainable Development Goals, i.e., K-SDGs, that includes climate change and energy sector will be established later this year considering our national priorities such as balanced national development and inter-Korean peace.
- Korea has been carrying out its 2nd National Climate Change Adaptation Plan for 2016-2020 and the plan will have a mid-term evaluation in October this year. The evaluation aims to assess the effectiveness of adaptation policies taking into account various stakeholders' opinions.

Stakeholder Participation

- Korea's adaptation policies will be based on the governance engaging the private sector as well. This participatory governance connects central and local governments, and public and private sectors in order to respond to various adverse effects of climate change.