

# **2025 CHAIRMAN’S STATEMENT OF THE 28TH ASEAN PLUS THREE SUMMIT**

*Adopted in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 27 October 2025*

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## **2025 CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT OF THE 28TH ASEAN PLUS THREE SUMMIT**

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1. The 28<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Plus Three (APT) Summit was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 27 October 2025. The Summit was chaired by the Honourable Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim, Prime Minister of Malaysia as the Chair of the APT, and attended by ASEAN Member States, the People's Republic of China, Japan, and the Republic of Korea (ROK) as well as the Secretary-General of ASEAN. The Director of ASEAN+3 Macroeconomic Research Office (AMRO) and Chair of the East Asia Business Council (EABC) 2025 were invited to provide their perspectives on the region's macroeconomic and financial outlook, as well as regional economic growth, respectively. The Secretary-General of the Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat (TCS) attended as an observer.

### **REVIEW AND FUTURE DIRECTION OF ASEAN PLUS THREE (APT) COOPERATION**

2. We noted the progress in the APT cooperation over the past year and discussed its future direction. We reaffirmed the commitment to further strengthening and deepening the APT process which plays a key role and remains as a main vehicle for advancing regional community-building efforts and in promoting peace, stability, security and prosperity in the East Asian region with ASEAN as the driving force. We also recognised the importance of the APT to ASEAN's efforts towards realising the ASEAN Community Vision 2025, Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) 2025, Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) Work Plan IV (2021-2025), and deeper regional integration in East Asia.
3. The Plus Three countries welcomed the adoption of the ASEAN 2045: Our Shared Future as a strategic vision to guide ASEAN Community-building over the next two decades. The Plus Three countries reaffirmed their commitment to support ASEAN Community-building, including through the implementation of the four priority areas of the ASEAN Outlook on Indo-Pacific (AOIP), the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and other concrete activities to realise a resilient, innovative, dynamic and people-centred ASEAN by 2045. We agreed to further strengthen the APT partnership in accordance with the principles of the ASEAN Charter and Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC). ASEAN encouraged future APT cooperation to facilitate the objectives outlined in the ASEAN 2045: Our Shared Future.
4. The Plus Three countries noted the importance of the AOIP as a guide for ASEAN's engagement in the wider Asia-Pacific and Indian Ocean regions and noted the ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on the AOIP for the Future-Ready ASEAN and ASEAN-Centred Regional Architecture, including promoting inclusive, mutually beneficial and comprehensive cooperation through concrete and practical projects and activities in the four priority areas of the AOIP.
5. We appreciated the progress made in the implementation of the APT Cooperation Work Plan (2023-2027), in the areas of trade and investment, finance, agriculture, energy security, Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), digital economy, tourism, connectivity, civil service matters, social welfare and development, education, health, labour, environment and climate change, sub-regional cooperation, and maritime cooperation. We emphasised the need to accelerate efforts across all sectors and urged the APT countries to bring forward

more concrete activities for implementation, particularly in the action lines that remain unaddressed.

6. We emphasised the need to further strengthen dialogue and cooperation in combating transnational crime and enhancing border management through existing APT mechanisms, particularly the ASEAN Plus Three Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (AMMTC+3) Consultation. We looked forward to the full and effective implementation of the ASEAN Plus Three Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC+3) Work Plan on Cooperation to Combat Transnational Crime (2024-2027), as well as the ASEAN Directors-General of Immigration Departments and Heads of Consular Affairs Divisions of Ministries of Foreign Affairs Meeting (DGICM) Plus Three Work Programme (2023-2027), to promote practical collaboration in the areas of transnational crime, immigration, consular affairs and border management. We also reaffirmed a strong commitment to combatting illicit drugs under the framework of the ASEAN Plus Three Senior Officials Meeting on Drug Matters (ASOD+3) Consultation. We also underscored the need to strengthen cooperation to effectively combat the growing threats posed by cybercrime, including online scams, and expressed concern that cybercrimes are often associated with trafficking in persons, the smuggling of goods and illicit drugs, and money laundering. We reaffirmed our intention to promote cooperation against cybercrimes within the APT framework.
7. We commended the positive outcomes achieved under the APT Economic Cooperation Work Programme (ECWP) 2023-2024 and welcomed the progress made in the implementation of the APT ECWP 2025-2026, especially in key areas, such as MSMEs development, private sector engagement and stakeholder dialogues, seamless trade, digital economy, sustainable development, and the green economy. We underscored the importance of further strengthening economic relations among APT countries, with ASEAN playing a central role, by pursuing cooperation in areas of mutual interest, promoting trade and investment flows, contributing to supply chain resilience, and addressing challenges arising from regional and global developments.
8. We welcomed the adoption of the ASEAN Leaders' Statement on Responding to Global Economic and Trade Uncertainties at the ASEAN Summit on 26 May 2025, which reaffirmed ASEAN's unwavering commitment to upholding a predictable, transparent, free, fair, inclusive, sustainable, non-discriminatory, open and rules-based multilateral trading system, with the World Trade Organization (WTO) at its core. We further reaffirmed our resolve in providing meaningful impetus to respond to current trade challenges, taking advantage of available opportunities, and supporting the necessary reform of the WTO, including having a fully and well-functioning dispute settlement system and supporting a successful 14<sup>th</sup> WTO Ministerial Conference. We also highlighted the urgency of deepening regional economic integration by leveraging or upgrading free trade agreements with external partners and maximising the utilisation of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Agreement to strengthen supply chain resilience and advance growth that is both sustainable and inclusive in light of escalating global and regional challenges.
9. We welcomed the progress in the implementation of the RCEP Agreement and looked forward to its effective implementation in a transparent manner, to increase its utilisation by the private sector in the region, especially MSMEs, and its contribution to stronger and more resilient supply chains in the region. We welcomed the establishment and operationalisation of the RCEP Support Unit (RSU), which provides institutional support for the implementation of the RCEP Agreement. We also looked forward to reviewing the Agreement and expanding the membership of RCEP which will further strengthen the RCEP's role in promoting open, transparent, fair and inclusive trading system and economic cooperation across the region.

10. We noted the convening of the 5<sup>th</sup> RCEP Summit, marking the first RCEP Leaders' Meeting since the RCEP Agreement entered into force in 2022. We acknowledged the pivotal role of RCEP in advancing regional economic integration and cooperation amid ongoing global and regional economic and trade uncertainties. We looked forward to discussions on enhancing RCEP implementation as a vital step toward ensuring level playing field as well as promoting strong and resilient domestic and regional growth.
11. We emphasised the need to strengthen APT collaboration to navigate the challenging global environment through stronger and more impactful cooperation, especially in the areas of sustainable development, inclusive economic transformation, digital transformation, supply chain connectivity, MSMEs development, and pursuing cooperation in areas of mutual interest. In this regard, we commended the implementation of the ASEAN+3 Start-up Program for Promoting Sustainable Development.
12. We reaffirmed the importance of the ASEAN+3 Finance Process in enhancing regional economic and financial stability. We commended the continued commitment and pivotal role of the ASEAN+3 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors in promoting regional financial stability by strengthening AMRO's surveillance capacity and the Chiang Mai Initiative Multilateralization (CMIM) as an effective regional financial safety net, a vital component of the global financial safety net. These efforts include the introduction of the Rapid Financing Facility (RFF) with the incorporation of eligible freely usable currencies (FUCs) as its currencies of choice, to provide members timely access to emergency financing during urgent balance-of-payments needs arising from sudden exogenous shocks, and efforts with the aim of transitioning the CMIM to include a paid-in capital (PIC) structure, with a focus on the IMF type models as the basis to work on key remaining issues related to the transition to PIC that need to be addressed, including governance and the required capabilities for managing such a structure, reserves recognition, sizing and contribution currencies. We welcomed the APT Fiscal Policy Exchange Initiative introduced in 2025 which serves as a valuable platform for members to exchange views and experiences on fiscal policies and fiscal management practices. We agreed on the importance of the ongoing review and update of the "Strategic Directions of APT Finance Process" to ensure the Finance Process remains strategic, relevant and responsive. We welcomed the progress made in exploring the Policy Adjustment Instrument (PAI) through the introduction of the Structural Policy Improvement and Review Instrument with Technical Assistance (SPIRIT) as a pilot project to provide technical assistance for structural reforms. We also acknowledged the growth of sustainable local currency bond issuance under the Asian Bond Markets Initiative (ABMI). We further recognised the tangible progress made under the Disaster Risk Financing Initiative (DRFI), supported by Southeast Asia Disaster Risk Insurance Facility (SEADRIF) and development partners, including successful payouts and pilot programmes that enhance regional disaster resilience. We adopted the ASEAN Plus Three Leaders' Statement on Strengthening the Regional Economic and Financial Cooperation by the finance track.
13. We commended the progress achieved in implementing the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Strategy on Food, Agriculture and Forestry (APTCS-FAF) 2016-2025 and looked forward to the implementation of the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Strategy on Food, Agriculture and Forestry (APTCS-FAF) 2026-2035. This new strategy should align closely with the ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on the Vision for Food, Agriculture and Forestry Towards 2045. We underscored the importance of the effective implementation of key regional mechanisms such as the ASEAN Plus Three Emergency Rice Reserve (APTERR) and the ASEAN Food Security Information System (AFSIS) to enhance regional food reserves and strengthen supply chain connectivity in anticipation of and response to future disruptions. In this regard, we welcomed the 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of APTERR Council held on 19-20 February 2025

in Tokyo. We also emphasised the need to promote resilient and sustainable agriculture and food systems to ensure sufficient, safe, nutritious, and accessible food for all, including by advancing decarbonisation, digital technologies, fostering circular economy principles, reducing harmful agrochemicals and antimicrobials, and adopting nature-based solutions with the recognition of ecosystem services in paddy farming.

14. We noted the convening of the 22<sup>nd</sup> ASEAN+3 Ministers on Energy Meeting (AMEM+3), held on 17 October 2025 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, which underscored the importance of advancing regional energy connectivity as a foundation for ASEAN's long-term security. The Meeting welcomed the endorsement of the new ASEAN Plan of Action for Energy Cooperation (APAEC) 2026-2030 with its theme "Advancing Regional Cooperation in Ensuring Energy Security and Accelerating Decarbonisation for a Just and Inclusive Energy Transition", the signing of the Enhanced Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) of the ASEAN Power Grid (APG), the ASEAN Framework Agreement on Petroleum Security (APSA), as well as the launch of the APG Financing Initiative (APGF) to mobilise investments in regional power connectivity. The Meeting also emphasised the need to accelerate the development and deployment of emerging low-carbon solutions including hydrogen, ammonia, small modular reactors, and carbon capture, utilisation and storage (CCUS) or carbon recycling as key drivers of the region's energy transition, while noting important initiatives that contribute to energy transition, tailored to national circumstances and priorities to achieve energy security and economic competitiveness simultaneously. We also noted other relevant initiatives such as the Asia Zero Emission Community (AZEC) initiative, and the Asia Energy Transition Initiative (AETI).
15. We noted the continued progress in the implementation of the ASEAN Plus Three Minerals Cooperation Work Plan 2022-2025. We expressed our appreciation for the ongoing implementation of the project on Critical Minerals Management and Strategy for Sustainable Environment in ASEAN, supported by the ROK, which includes the compilation and updating of Geological and Mineral Occurrence Maps of ASEAN Member States for integration into the enhanced ASEAN Minerals Information System (AMIS), along with capacity building initiatives on smart mining technologies to support the development of the critical mineral sector in ASEAN. We also appreciated the continued organisation of the China-ASEAN Mining Cooperation Conference, which remains a key platform for promoting dialogue and collaboration in the mining sector. We look forward to the development of a new ASEAN Plus Three Minerals Cooperation Work Plan that aligns with the ASEAN Minerals Development Vision and the ASEAN Minerals Cooperation Action Plan (AMCAP-IV) 2026-2030, which was adopted by the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Minerals (AMMin) on 2 October 2025.
16. We appreciated the support from the Plus Three countries for the implementation of the MPAC 2025. We encouraged continued efforts to explore potential collaboration and further develop practical projects under the ASEAN Connectivity Strategic Plan (ACSP), building on previous successes to strengthen regional connectivity under the MPAC 2025 and by enhancing links and synergies with connectivity initiatives of the Plus Three countries through the connecting the connectivities approach.
17. We commended the continued efforts of APT in advancing the digital transformation agenda. We acknowledged the importance of focusing on enhancing APT's capacity to facilitate free flows of data across borders, enhance digital connectivity, and strengthen consumer and business trust in the digital economy. We welcomed the APT's support for negotiations on the ASEAN Digital Economy Framework Agreement (DEFA), of which the substantial conclusion was announced at the 26<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Economic Community Council Meeting marking a pivotal moment in the region's digital transformation. We acknowledged the

continued support of APT on the ASEAN Digital Integration Framework Action Plan (DIFAP) 2019-2025 through the mid-term report on the APT research project for narrowing the digital divide in MSMEs, as well as its robust backing of the ASEAN Digital Masterplan (ADM) 2025 through capacity-building initiatives on digital technologies. We looked forward to sustaining this momentum in the upcoming ASEAN Digital Master Plan 2030.

18. We commended the APT's continued commitment to strengthening cooperation in Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) for the region. We encouraged the capacity building of the youth through the ASEAN+3 Centre for the Gifted in Science, and noted the completion of other relevant STI initiatives under APT, which includes the ASEAN+3 Centre for the Gifted in Science. We valued the collective commitment among APT countries to driving excellence in science and reaffirmed the intention to work with all parties.
19. We emphasised the importance of cultural, sports and tourism exchanges and people-to-people links to heighten awareness and foster intercultural understanding and ASEAN identity in the region. In this regard, we called for strengthened collaboration to encourage the effective implementation of projects proposed under the ASEAN Plus Three Work Plan on Cooperation in Culture and the Arts (2022-2025) and ASEAN Plus Three Tourism Cooperation Work Plan (2021-2025). We noted the convening of the 24<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ASEAN, China, Japan and ROK Tourism Ministers (24<sup>th</sup> M-ATM Plus Three) in Johor, Malaysia, on 19 January 2025, which encouraged the APT countries to actively engage with relevant stakeholders, including those from the private sector, to bolster the development of a more robust and resilient tourism sector in our region, as well as to continue sharing information and best practices to drive the development of sustainable tourism forward, ensuring collective growth and prosperity.
20. We commended the efforts of the ASEAN-China Centre (ACC), ASEAN-Japan Centre (AJC), and ASEAN-Korea Centre (AKC) in promoting trade, investment, culture, tourism, media, creative industry, and people-to-people exchanges between ASEAN and the Plus Three countries. We also welcomed the regular consultation meetings among the three Centres and encouraged them to strengthen linkages and collaboration. We further called on the Centres to continue facilitating trade and economic cooperation among ASEAN Plus Three countries through joint or individual initiatives.
21. We also encouraged greater collaboration to leverage digital transformation for the media and information sector under the Work Plan on Enhancing APT Cooperation through Information and Media (2018-2025).
22. We acknowledged the commitment to strengthening ASEAN Health Security through Digital Innovations for Cross-Border Health Emergencies in the New Context Post Pandemic. This commitment builds on the key areas of cooperation outlined in the Joint Statement of the 10<sup>th</sup> APT Health Ministers Meeting held in August 2024. These efforts are aligned with the ASEAN Community Vision 2045 and ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Strategic Plan. We also reaffirmed our commitment to strengthening collaboration to improve the capacity of ASEAN Member States and the Plus Three Countries to prevent, detect, and respond effectively to public health threats, including strengthening preventive health capacities and frontline primary healthcare systems. In this regard, we reiterated our support for the establishment and operationalisation of the ASEAN Centre for Public Health Emergencies and Emerging Diseases (ACPHEED) as a centre of excellence and regional resource hub for public health emergency preparedness and called upon the Plus Three countries to provide sustainable technical and financial support for the Centre.

23. We welcomed the multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder collaborative activities, undertaken in promoting healthy and active ageing as complemented by the establishment of the ASEAN Centre for Active Ageing and Innovation (ACAI). We also noted the efforts of APT to empower the welfare and rights of older persons in various fora including the (i) Healthy Aging Prize for Asian Innovation (HAPI) and ASEAN and Japan High-Level Officials Meeting on Caring Societies under the Asia Health and Wellbeing Initiative; (ii) ASEAN Plus Three International Forum on Response to Ageing in 2024 and The Capacity-Building Training on Response to Ageing among APT Countries in 2025 in China to continuously promote the rights and welfare of older persons; the outcomes of (iii) Regional Workshop on Technical Assistance to Provide Access and Opportunity for Older Persons in Cambodia; (iv) ASEAN+3 Regional Conference on Integration Policy in Fostering and Inclusive Ageing Society through an Intergenerational Approach in Thailand; and (v) ASEAN+ROK Conference on Care and Support for Older Persons in Malaysia led by SOMSWD to keep the momentum on advancing older persons' rights and empowerment.
24. We reaffirmed the commitment to promoting and supporting sustainable, inclusive, and equitable development across the ASEAN community, including the protection and mainstreaming of the rights of persons with disabilities through developing accessible services to health and rehabilitation, education, employment, social protection, and digital inclusion, to accelerate ASEAN disability-inclusive development.
25. We reaffirmed ASEAN and the Plus Three countries' strong commitment to promoting social welfare and development cooperation, through the programmatic implementation of key ASEAN declarations and regional frameworks, including the (i) Declaration on Strengthening Social Protection in ASEAN; (ii) Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Ageing: Empowering Older Persons in ASEAN; (iii) ASEAN Enabling Masterplan 2025: Mainstreaming the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; (iv) ASEAN Gender Mainstreaming Strategic Framework; (v) Bandar Seri Begawan Declaration on the Importance of the Family Community Development and Nation-Building; (vi) Declaration on Gender Equality and Family Development; (vii) ASEAN Declaration on Disability Inclusive Development and Partnership for a Resilient ASEAN Community; and (viii) Roadmap to Implement the Ha Noi Declaration on Strengthening Social Work Towards a Cohesive and Responsive ASEAN Community, among others.
26. We reaffirmed the commitment of the APT to explore and carry out concrete actions to strengthen the partnership between ASEAN and Plus Three countries on social welfare and development through the Senior Officials' Meeting on Social Welfare and Development (SOMSWD), including through cooperation with the ASEAN Training Centre for Social Work and Social Welfare (ATCSW), ASEAN Social Work Consortium (ASWC) and Network of Experts on Inclusive Entrepreneurship for ASEAN (NIEA) to respond to the impacts of emerging global trends, including digitalisation, demographic shifts, and climate change, among others, with enhanced participation and engagement of women, children, persons with disabilities, older persons, and people in vulnerable situations. We looked forward to APT's active collaboration for the upcoming new work plans of SOMSWD, ASWC, NIEA and ATCSW with priorities which are fully aligned with the APT goals and aspirations for their peoples.
27. We reiterated the APT's commitment to advancing cooperation in promoting sustainable, inclusive and innovative development, as well as in strengthening cooperation with all stakeholders, including the private sector, to achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). We noted the successful conduct of the 12<sup>th</sup> APT Leadership Programme on Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) hosted by Lao PDR, in November 2024, and looked forward to the 13<sup>th</sup> APT Leadership Programme on SCP.

28. We called for the development of collaborative projects to protect and conserve the environment and biodiversity, to promote sustainable use of natural resources including sustainable forest and water resource management, to address the adverse impact of climate change, and to address common environmental challenges through collaborations with relevant ASEAN centres, such as the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB), the ASEAN Centre for Climate Change (ACCC), the ASEAN Specialised Meteorological Centre (ASMC) and the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Transboundary Haze Pollution Control (ACCTHPC).
29. We welcomed the continued contributions of the Plus Three countries in addressing marine debris, particularly through the APT Marine Plastic Debris Cooperative Action Initiative and their continued cooperation to the implementation of the ASEAN Regional Action Plan for Combating Marine Debris in ASEAN Member States 2021-2025. We also welcomed the valuable activities of the Regional Knowledge Centre for Marine Plastic Debris (RKC-MPD), under the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), in particular through the annual ASEAN Conference on Combating Plastic Pollution (ACPP). Furthermore, we recognised collective efforts in promoting sustainable consumption and production as part of broader environmental sustainability goals.
30. We reaffirmed our commitment to strengthening cooperation in rural development and poverty alleviation as a key component of sustainable development. We looked forward to exploring further cooperation for the strategic implementation of rural transformation and the sustainable development agenda through initiatives such as infrastructure and human resource development, capacity-building programmes, including the ASEAN+3 Village Leaders Exchange Programme, and technical exchange activities. These efforts are guided by the ASEAN Framework Action Plan on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication 2021-2025, the ASEAN Master Plan on Rural Development 2022-2026, the ASEAN Villages Network (AVN), and regional mechanism of the Senior Officials Meeting on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (SOMRDPE) Plus Three. We recognised the importance of inclusive and integrated approaches that empower communities and promote rural resilience, particularly in the context of emerging challenges and post-pandemic recovery. We also welcomed the continued collaboration in the development and subsequent implementation of the ASEAN Plus Three Work Plan on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication 2026-2030, which will serve as a key strategic document to guide regional efforts in the years ahead.
31. We reaffirmed the commitment to promoting and protecting the human rights of people in vulnerable situations, achieving gender equality, and the empowerment of women. We commended the continued efforts of the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) through the AICHR Five-Year Workplan 2026-2030, the ASEAN Committee on Women (ACW) and ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC) to forge ahead with the implementation of the ASEAN Gender Mainstreaming Strategic Framework (AGMSF) 2021-2025 and its Implementation Plan across the three ASEAN Community pillars. In accelerating the implementation of the AGMSF, we acknowledged with appreciation the Policy Recommendations on Integrating Gender Mainstreaming in ASEAN that was noted by the ASEAN Leaders during the 43<sup>rd</sup> ASEAN Summit. Looking ahead, we underscored the importance of sustained collaboration with ASEAN Plus Three cooperation in advancing gender equality and women's empowerment across all sectors and levels of society, and in addressing both persistent and emerging gender gaps. In this context, we welcomed the constructive engagement of the ASEAN Plus Three in the development and implementation of the ACW Work Plan 2025-2030, and the ACWC Work Plan 2026-2030 which will serve as a strategic platform to guide

collective efforts in fostering inclusive and gender-responsive development across the region.

32. We reaffirmed our commitment to maintaining peace in the region, including through the implementation of the ASEAN Regional Plan of Action on Women, Peace, and Security (WPS). We commended the convening of the 2<sup>nd</sup> ASEAN Women, Peace and Security Summit in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, in September 2025, which served as a strategic platform for ASEAN and its partners to celebrate progress in advancing the WPS agenda and to reaffirm their commitment to ensuring the full, equal, and meaningful participation of women in peacebuilding and peacekeeping efforts. We expressed support for continued cooperation in capacity-building initiatives aimed at empowering women within the WPS framework and welcomed the APT cooperation on advancing the WPS agenda including in the context of disaster risk reduction.
33. We recognised APT's continued commitment to advancing educational cooperation, underscoring the critical role of education in human resource development and in fostering social and economic well-being. We encouraged the further strengthening of cooperation within the CAMPUS Asia Plus Program. We also welcomed the initiatives of the Working Group on Student Mobility and Quality Assurance of Higher Education among APT countries. We took note of other relevant initiatives such as Chinese Government Scholarship, MEXT scholarship, ASIA KAKEHASHI Project+ (Plus), and Sakura Science Exchange Program, ASEAN China-Young Leaders Scholarship (ACYLS) programme, Higher Education for ASEAN Talents (HEAT)-ROK Scholarships for ASEAN faculty members, Korea-ASEAN TVET Student Exchange Programme, and Japan Society for the Promotion of Science International Fellowships for Research in Japan. We reaffirmed the APT's commitment to furthering cooperative efforts in research and education to drive continuous progress in the field.
34. We commended the longstanding efforts of the APT Senior Officials' Meeting on Youth and relevant ASEAN entities to provide greater access for youth in APT countries to participate and remain engaged in the ASEAN Community-building and people-to-people exchange, through various annual youth exchanges, capacity building, and community immersion programmes, such as China-ASEAN Youth Campus, the Ship for Southeast Asian and Japanese Youth Program (SSEAYP), and the Korean Youth Camp for ASEAN and Friends' Engagement (YCAFE). We commended the implementation of the ASEAN Plus Three Skills Development for Youth in Sustainable Eco-Tourism and Agro-Tourism in December 2024.
35. We noted that the Ninth APT Ministerial Meeting on Youth on 30 November 2024 underscored the commitment to facilitating APT initiatives on youth for fostering mutual understanding, a sense of commonality and a stronger community spirit among APT youth, enhancing their physical and mental well-being and promoting their skills development in the era of Fourth Industrial Revolution under APT Work Plan on Youth (2021-2025) and heightening more comprehensive partnership as well as the development of the new post-2025 Work Plan on Youth.
36. We commended the steady progress of implementation of the APT Cooperation on Civil Service Matters (ACCSM+3) Work Plan (2021-2025) and commended the active engagement of the APT countries in the development of the ACCSM+3 Work Plan (2026-2030). We encouraged closer APT cooperation in raising the standards of civil service in the ASEAN region in areas of mutual interests, including e-governance, human resource management and human resource development, productivity in the public sector, good governance, public sector reform, local administrative capacity building and cooperation, and research and innovation.

37. We noted with appreciation the successful convening of the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of Deans and Directors of Diplomatic Training Institutions of ASEAN Plus Three on 1 October 2025 in Kuala Lumpur, hosted by the Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (IDFR) Malaysia. The Meeting, among others, provided a platform to exchange ideas, share best practices, and identify strategies for integrating new technologies, particularly Artificial Intelligence (AI) into diplomatic training.
38. We commended the strengthening of the APT cooperation in the labour sector through the continued implementation of the APT Senior Labour Officials' Meeting (SLOM+3) Work Plan (2021-2025). This was achieved through concrete activities and projects in key areas such as human resource development, employment, skills development, inclusive and sustainable growth, social dialogue, occupational safety and health, and social protection. We noted that the 13th APT Labour Ministers Meeting (13th ALMM+3), held in Singapore, in October 2024, reaffirmed the commitment to strengthening resilience and fostering innovation to help ASEAN Member States adapt to the impacts of technological advancements, digitalisation, green economy, demographic shifts, labour migration, and changes in global supply chains. We agreed to enhance cooperation among the APT countries to promote the well-being of workers and strengthen their resilience in the future of work through the APT SLOM+3 Work Plan (2026-2030).
39. We encouraged deeper cooperation on disaster risk reduction and humanitarian assistance to strengthen regional resilience, particularly through the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) Work Programme 2021-2025 and looked forward to continued collaboration under its successor, the AADMER Work Programme 2026-2030. This includes exchanging information, best practices, and experiences in disaster management; strengthening disasters early warning mechanisms; enhancing ASEAN's capacity in disaster assessment and monitoring, prevention and mitigation, and response and recovery; and advancing ASEAN's global leadership in disaster management. We looked forward to continued partnership in the implementation of the ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on Sustainable Resilience, and encouraged further collaboration to reinforce the capacity of the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Centre).
40. We acknowledged the important contribution of the East Asia Forum (EAF) as a Track 1.5 level platform for government, business, academia, and think tanks to further deepen East Asia cooperation. We also recognised the important contributions of the Network of East Asia Think-Tanks (NEAT) towards APT cooperation and noted the outcomes of the 41<sup>st</sup> and 42<sup>nd</sup> NEAT Coordinators' Meetings and the two NEAT working group meetings held this year.

## **REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ISSUES**

41. We expressed concern over the recent developments regarding the Korean Peninsula and stressed the importance of resuming peaceful dialogue among all concerned parties in order to realise lasting peace and stability in a denuclearised Korean Peninsula. We expressed grave concern over the recent surge in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's (DPRK) intercontinental testing and ballistic missile launches, which are worrisome developments that threaten peace and stability in the region. We called on the DPRK to comply fully with all relevant UNSC resolutions and continue working towards the realisation of lasting peace and stability in a denuclearised Korean Peninsula. We also called for the full implementation of all relevant UNSC resolutions and noted international efforts to bring about the complete denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula in a peaceful manner. Diplomatic efforts, including

the creation of a conducive environment for peaceful dialogue among all concerned parties, should remain a priority. In this vein, we expressed support for the resumption of dialogue through proactive deescalation and confidence-building measures, with the aim of achieving peaceful coexistence and shared growth on the Korean Peninsula through the expansion of inter-Korean exchanges, normalisation of relations, and advancing denuclearisation. We reiterated our readiness to play a constructive role, including through ASEAN-led platforms such as the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), in promoting a conducive atmosphere for peaceful dialogue among the concerned parties. Some countries emphasised the importance of addressing issues of humanitarian concern to the international community, including the immediate resolution of the abductions and detainees issues.

42. We expressed our deep concern over the escalation of conflicts and humanitarian situation in Myanmar and urged progress on the implementation of the ASEAN's Five-Point Consensus (5PC). We denounced the continued acts of violence against civilians, public facilities, and civilian infrastructures, and urged all parties involved to take concrete action to immediately halt indiscriminate violence, exercise utmost restraint, ensure the protection and safety of all civilians and civilian infrastructures, and create a conducive environment for the delivery of nondiscriminatory humanitarian assistance and inclusive national dialogue. We also welcomed the continued progress in the provision of humanitarian assistance to Myanmar by the AHA Centre.
43. We commended the dedicated efforts of H.E. Tan Sri Othman Hashim as the Special Envoy of the ASEAN Chair on Myanmar. In carrying out his mandate, the Special Envoy has actively engaged a wide and diverse range of stakeholders through an inclusive approach, reflecting ASEAN's commitment to collective efforts in addressing the complex challenges in Myanmar.

## **GUESTS OF THE CHAIR**

44. We noted the briefing by the ASEAN+3 Macroeconomic Research Office (AMRO) on the region's macroeconomic and financial outlook. We welcomed the AMRO's efforts to enhance macroeconomic surveillance, capacity-building, and policy coordination under the Chiang Mai Initiative Multilateralisation (CMIM), including the operationalisation of the Rapid Financing Facility (RFF). We further welcomed the AMRO's contribution to reinforcing the region's financial safety nets and its support for ASEAN's efforts to advance inclusive and sustainable economic growth.
45. We noted the briefing by the East Asia Business Council (EABC) on regional economic growth. We welcomed the EABC's recommendations to strengthen supply chain resilience, enhance support for MSMEs and accelerate digital trade integration. We further welcomed the EABC's continued commitment to fostering closer public-private partnership in advancing regional economic integration, competitiveness, and sustainable growth.