

**JOINT MINISTERIAL STATEMENT OF THE SEVENTEENTH (17TH)
ASEAN SOCIO-CULTURAL COMMUNITY (ASCC) COUNCIL**

8 March 2017 | Iloilo City, the Philippines

1. We, the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) Council Ministers/ Heads of Delegation of Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Viet Nam met on 8 March 2017 in Iloilo City, for the 17th ASCC Council Meeting, under the chairpersonship of the Philippines.

2. We extended strong support to realizing the priorities of the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community for 2017. Taking inspiration from the theme “Partnering for Change, Engaging the World”, we exchanged views on the ASCC contribution to the achievement of the thematic priorities under the leadership of the Philippines as follows:

- a. A people-oriented and people-centred ASEAN;
- b. Peace and stability in the region;
- c. Maritime security and cooperation;
- d. Inclusive, innovation-led growth;
- e. ASEAN’s resiliency; and
- f. ASEAN: A model of regionalism, a global player.

3. We look forward to the signing by ASEAN Leaders of the Declaration on the Role of Civil Service as Catalyst for Achieving ASEAN Community Vision 2025 in pursuit of the 2017 priorities at the 30th ASEAN Summit.

- 3.1. We committed our support towards the finalisation of the ASEAN Instrument on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers.

4. We welcomed the series of commemorative activities to be held throughout 2017 to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of ASEAN.

5. We acknowledged the progress of implementation of the ASCC Blueprint 2025 and development of the work plans of the various sectoral bodies of the ASCC, including cross-cutting initiatives and community-building issues. We encourage sectoral bodies under the ASCC, with the support of the ASEAN Secretariat, to continue to implement effectively their respective sectoral work plans and to share their reports to the ASCC Council.

6. We appreciated the progress made after one year of implementation of the ASCC Blueprint 2025 through the work of the ASCC sectoral bodies in collaboration with dialogue and other partners with the support of the ASEAN Secretariat. We noted the development of “A Guide to Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) of the ASCC Blueprint 2025.” We encouraged ASCC sectoral bodies to utilise it as reference for monitoring their respective work plans and ensuring alignment with the ASCC Blueprint 2025.

7. We expressed gratitude to the Senior Officials’ Committee for the ASCC (SOCA) for the effective coordination of the implementation of the ASCC Blueprint 2025.

8. We join the international community in commemorating the International Women’s Day on 8 March 2017 and celebrate the great strides in women empowerment and gender equality in the ASEAN region. The ASEAN Community will continue to work together in this direction as inspired by this year’s theme “Be Bold for Change.” We look forward to the adoption of the Leaders’ Declaration on Gender-Responsive Implementation of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and Sustainable Development Goals at the 31st ASEAN Summit.

9. We conveyed our deepest appreciation and congratulations to the Philippines for the effective chairpersonship and excellent arrangements for the 17th ASCC Council Meeting.

**LIST OF MINISTERS/ HEADS OF DELEGATION
ATTENDING THE 17TH ASCC COUNCIL MEETING
8 MARCH, ILOILO CITY, THE PHILIPPINES**

- 1. H.E PEHIN DATO MAJOR GENERAL (RTD) HALBI YUSSOF**
MINISTER OF CULTURE, YOUTH AND SPORTS
BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

- 2. H.E DR. ITH SAM HENG**
MINISTER OF LABOUR AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING
CAMBODIA

- 3. H.E. AMBASSADOR DR. SUJATMIKO**
DEPUTY MINISTER FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN PROTECTION
COORDINATING MINISTRY FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND CULTURE

- 4. H.E. MR. SAVANKHONE RAZMOUNTRY**
DEPUTY MINISTER OF INFORMATION, CULTURE AND TOURISM
LAO PDR

- 5. HONORABLE DATUK MAS ERMIEYATI SAMSUDIN**
DEPUTY MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE
MALAYSIA

- 6. MADAME KHIN KYI PYAR**
RECTOR
THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF ARTS AND CULTURE (MANDALAY)
MINISTRY OF RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS AND CULTURE
MYANMAR

- 7. H.E. DR. JUDY M. TAGUIWALO**
SECRETARY (HEAD OF AGENCY)
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT
PHILIPPINES

- 8. MR. RICHARD TAN KOK TONG**
SENIOR DIRECTOR, COMMUNICATIONS AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
SINGAPORE

9. H.E. MAITRI INTHUSUT

PERMANENT SECRETARY
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL DEVELOPEMNT AND HUMAN SECURITY
THAILAND

10. MRS. HA THI MINH DUC

DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION
DEPARTMENT
MINISTRY OF LABOUR, INVALIDS AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS
VIET NAM

11. H.E. LE LUONG MINH

SECRETARY-GENERAL OF ASEAN
