



**THE TWENTIETH AEM–METI CONSULTATIONS
26 August 2014, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar**

JOINT MEDIA STATEMENT

1. The ASEAN Economic Ministers (AEM) and the Minister for Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) of Japan met on 26 August 2014 in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar for the Twentieth AEM-METI Consultations. The Consultations were co-chaired by H.E. Dr. Kan Zaw, Union Minister for Planning and Economic Development, Myanmar and H.E. Toshimitsu Motegi, Minister for Economy, Trade and Industry, Japan.

2. The Ministers noted the performance of ASEAN-Japan bilateral trade and investment. Two-way trade between ASEAN and Japan reached US\$240.9 billion in 2013, accounting for 9.6% of total ASEAN trade. Japan was ASEAN's third largest trading partner after China and EU. Foreign direct investment (FDI) flows from Japan to ASEAN amounted to US\$ 22.9 billion in 2013. Japan remained the second largest source of FDI for ASEAN, accounting for 18.7% of total FDI inflows into ASEAN in 2013.

ASEAN-Japan 10-year Strategic Economic Cooperation Roadmap

3. The Ministers welcomed the Leaders' commitment expressed at the ASEAN-Japan 40th Year Commemorative Summit in December last year to accelerate the implementation of the ASEAN-Japan Strategic Economic Cooperation Roadmap. The Ministers noted the recommendations from the ASEAN-Japan Economic Forum, held on the sidelines of the Commemorative Summit, which include among others, prioritising areas for implementation under the Roadmap.

4. The Ministers were pleased with the improvements made on the Roadmap, which incorporated the recommendations from the ASEAN-Japan Economic Forum and included, among others, support for the realisation of the ASEAN Economic Community by 2015, timely completion of Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) negotiations, increased business partnership between ASEAN and Japan, closer cooperation in intellectual property, as well as increased technology transfer from Japan to ASEAN.

5. The Ministers welcomed the progress made in the implementation of the Roadmap for 2013-2014 including the development of the ASEAN-Japan Chemical Safety Database, "local-to-local" cooperation between ASEAN and Japan, and Japan's support for the Strategic Action Plan for SME development post-2015.

Dialogue between Secretary-General of ASEAN with the Federation of Japanese Chambers of Commerce and Industry in ASEAN (FJCCIA)

6. The Ministers were pleased with the outcomes of the 7th Dialogue between the Secretary-General of ASEAN and the FJCCIA held on 24 June 2014 in Manila, the Philippines. The Minister noted the appreciation of Japanese business community on the abolition of FOB pricing disclosure in certificates of origin, and the implementation of services liberalisation across sectors.

7. The Ministers underscored the importance of the Dialogue and welcomed the rising interest of Japanese business communities in ASEAN in the realisation of the ASEAN Economic Community by 2015 and deepened economic integration in the region. The Ministers noted the FJCCIA's request for higher level of ambition of the RCEP, establishment of the ASEAN highway and trans-boundary special economic zone, secured supply of energy, development of human resources, and enhancement of public-private partnership (PPP) scheme.

1st ASEAN-Japan Public-Private Dialogue on New Industries

8. The Ministers noted the outcomes of the 1st ASEAN-Japan Public Private Dialogue on New Industries held on 26 August 2014, particularly on the recommendations to nurture new industries in areas such as energy, healthcare, and content industries for incorporation into the ASEAN-Japan 10-year Strategic Economic Cooperation Roadmap and tasked officials to look at the recommendations and promote dialogues and collaboration opportunities between ASEAN and Japan businesses in these sectors.

9. The Dialogue highlighted, amongst others, the importance of promotion of high efficiency coal fired power plant as one of the pragmatic measures to address climate change, also pointed out the importance of preventive medicine including medical check-up and continuous discussion and knowledge sharing on content business to enhance cross-border content distribution.

ASEAN-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership (AJCEP) Agreement

10. The Ministers reaffirmed the Leaders' commitments to enhance ASEAN and Japan Comprehensive Partnership Agreement through broadening and deepening areas of mutual interest including Trade in Goods, Trade in Services, and Investment. The Ministers tasked the officials to expedite the finalisation of guidelines for transposing tariff reduction schedules (TRS) into newer version of the Harmonised System; which will help to ensure the transposition of TRS to be carried out in a timely and efficient manner; and the mechanism for monitoring the utilisation of tariff preferential rate under AJCEP.

11. The Ministers noted the significant progress made towards concluding the Trade in Services and Investment negotiations and tasked the officials to finalise the Trade in Services and Investment Chapters into the AJCEP Agreement by the end of 2014.

12. The Ministers thanked the Government of Japan for the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF) 2.0 and tasked the officials to identify activities that will support the ASEAN Economic Community building and broader economic integration efforts, as well as priority areas to promote greater economic cooperation between ASEAN and Japan.

AEM-METI Economic and Industrial Cooperation Committee (AMEICC) activities

13. The ASEAN Ministers especially appreciated AMEICC programs under supplementary budget provided by METI. Ministers encouraged officials to make good use of the supplementary budget for activities that support the implementation of the Roadmap.

14. The Ministers appreciated the AMEICC Working Group's activities to implement the ASEAN-Japan 10-year Strategic Economic Cooperation Roadmap, which include the development of a user-friendly self-certification system for the ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement (ATIGA) and Japan's cooperation proposal on reducing traffic accidents in ASEAN under the Working Group on Automotive Industry, the development of ASEAN-Japan Chemical Safety Database and a special workshop toward its database operation under the Working Group on Chemical Industries, the discussion on ASEAN Strategic Action Plan for SME Development (2016-2025) SME accounting, fostering Competitive SMEs in ASEAN, and developing industrial human resources in ASEAN through the combined efforts of the Asia Professional Education Network (APEN) and participating AMS under the Working Group on SMEs, as well as the organisation of the First Legal System Sub-working Group under the Working Group on West-East Corridor Development. The Ministers welcomed increased submissions of proposed cooperation projects in areas of trade and investment facilitation, SME cooperation, and new industry and innovation. The Ministers were confident that these projects will contribute to the successful implementation of the Roadmap.

LIST OF MINISTERS

1. **The Hon. Pehin Dato Lim Jock Seng**, Second Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Brunei Darussalam
2. **H.E. Sun Chanthol**, Senior Minister and Minister of Commerce, Cambodia
3. **H.E. Muhammad Lutfi**, Minister of Trade, Indonesia
4. **H.E. Toshimitsu Motegi**, Minister for Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan
5. **H.E. Mrs. Khemmani Pholsena**, Minister of Industry and Commerce, Lao PDR
6. **H.E. Dato' Sri Mustapa Mohamed**, Minister of International Trade and Industry, Malaysia
7. **H.E. Dr. Kan Zaw**, Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development, Myanmar
8. **H.E. Gregory L. Domingo**, Secretary of Trade and Industry, the Philippines
9. **H.E. Lim Hng Kiang**, Minister for Trade and Industry, Singapore
10. **H.E. Ms. Chutima Bunyapraphasara**, Permanent Secretary, Acting for the Minister of Commerce, Thailand
11. **H.E. Dr. Vu Huy Hoang**, Minister of Industry and Trade, Viet Nam
12. **H.E. Le Luong Minh**, Secretary-General of ASEAN