



**THE 11TH INFORMAL ASEAN MINISTERIAL MEETING ON SCIENCE,
TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION (IAMMSTI-11)**

17 June 2021, Virtual

JOINT MEDIA STATEMENT

1. The 11th Informal ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Science, Technology and Innovation (IAMMSTI-11) was held virtually on 17 June 2021. It was chaired by H.E. Prof. Dr. Anek Laothamatas, Minister of Higher Education, Science, Research and Innovation, the Kingdom of Thailand.

2. The Meeting congratulated Thailand for the successful hosting of the 11th ASEAN Science, Technology and Innovation Week (ASTIW-11) on 14-17 June 2021. With the focus on the implementation of ASEAN Innovation Roadmap 2019-2025 after COVID-19 pandemic, emphasizing the effort towards a more resilient and sustainable future, the Event has strengthened greater regional collaboration, particularly on bio-, circular and green economy, food/agriculture and energy resilience as well as the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

3. The Meeting welcomed the involvement of women and youth as the new ASEAN generation in the upcoming regional collective actions to achieve the ASEAN Plan of Action on Science, Technology and Innovation (APASTI) 2016-2025, ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint 2025 and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in ASEAN.

4. The Meeting commended the completion of the 2020 Annual Priorities of the Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Sector and approved the 2021 Priorities as follows:

- a. Endorse at least 2 projects that build up the capability of ASEAN to combat COVID-19;
- b. Implement a Summer School for High Performance Computing (HPC);
- c. Establish a Technology Management Hub (Phase 1); and
- d. Implement at least 2 projects addressing the SDGs.

5. The Meeting exchanged views on how the region could overcome the profound impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and ensure the recovery of the economy through a regional collaboration on COVID-19 and utilisation of STI for Industrial Transformation and Foundation for the Future.

Collaboration on COVID-19

6. The Meeting welcomed the adoption of ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework (ACRF) at the 37th ASEAN Summit, which serves as the consolidated exit strategy from the COVID-19 crisis. The Ministers committed to contribute to the implementation of the Framework and reiterated their resolve to work together to mitigate the impact of the pandemic on the economy and on people's lives.

7. The Meeting commended the ASEAN Forum on COVID-19 organized by the Committee of Science, Technology and Innovation (COSTI) on 16 October 2020, which identified five themes for future COVID-19 collaboration, namely a) Genomics, b) ASEAN Diagnostic Development (DxD) Initiative, c) Biosurveillance, d) Platform for Information Sharing, and e) Capacity Building to enhance technical expertise to strengthen ASEAN's preparedness against the pandemic.

8. The Meeting welcomed the two collaboration projects on COVID-19, namely ASEAN COVID Genomics Project and ASEAN Anti-COVID-19 Sero-Surveillance Study. These two projects will assist policy making decisions, contribute to public health strategies and measures to contain the spread of infections and enhance the health system in the region.

9. The Meeting underscored the importance of the establishment of a Platform for STI Information Sharing, particularly on COVID-19 Research and Development (R&D), for exchanging the latest strategies and plans to deal with the pandemic in respective ASEAN Member States.

STI for Industrial Transformation & Foundation for the Future

10. The Meeting emphasized the key role of STI in industrial transformation and welcomed the on-going development of a Consolidated Strategy on the Fourth Industrial Revolution for ASEAN.

11. To reposition ASEAN more competitively during the post-pandemic global reordering, the Meeting agreed to build a regional plan for an ASEAN STI ecosystem, supporting more value-adding industries by fostering synergies among AMSs based on their individual competitive advantages in STI.

12. The Meeting welcomed a new economic model that is restorative and regenerative by design, and in this regard, endorsed the Bio-Circular-Green Economy Network which is expected to contribute to greater competitive, efficient and resilient ASEAN.

13. The Meeting commended the sustainability of human resources development activities, despite pandemic challenges. These activities, amongst others, were collaborative R&D programmes as well as awards/ workshop/ training/ fellowship/ scholarship for students, teachers, scientists/researchers and/or policy makers. The Meeting appreciated COSTI's agreement to SOM-ED's request for COSTI to be the Lead Sectoral Body for the cross-pillar issue on 'Education in Science and Technology'.

14. The Meeting commended the support from Thailand, the Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore to the ASEAN STI Partnership Contributions for implementing activities, projects, and programs identified in the APASTI 2016-2025, including STI Enculturation & Capacity Development, Collaborative Research & Development, and Open Innovation & Entrepreneurship Development. The Meeting were pleased to note that under the Philippines' Scholarship Offerings for ASEAN Researchers, which now supports 42 scholars, one master's degree scholar from Cambodia and two master's degree scholars from Myanmar have graduated in 2020. Likewise, the ASEAN Young Scientists Network has been instrumental in organizing various flagship programs to train, engage and empower the next generation of ASEAN leaders. Trainings and other capacity building activities were supported and implemented by other AMSs.

15. The Meeting also supported the initiation to strengthen capacity within ASEAN to leverage on foresight as a strategic planning tool with a long-term plan to create a career track for professionals with the ability to operate in the interface of policy, business and research.

16. The Meeting further welcomed the efforts to improve the research ecosystem in ASEAN by completing the study on research administration, research management system and the need for professional STI coordinators in ASEAN.

17. The Meeting were pleased to note that the projects on plastic waste and sustainable manufacturing were initiated to support enterprises with access to technologies that could be deployed for sustainable development.

18. The Meeting welcomed a Virtual HPC School which would be held in July 2021 to foster HPC skills in ASEAN in HPC system design and applications in bio-informatics, climate science and urgent computing on disasters.

19. The Meeting attached great importance and appreciation to the long-term partnerships between ASEAN and its Dialogue Partners in advancing and expanding the field of science, technology and innovation. The Meeting welcomed the collective effort to promote youth and women engagement in STEM, strengthen public-private collaboration, address pressing global issues, and nurture STI enterprises and MSMEs. The Meeting valued the equity of access for the support from the Dialogue Partners and were of the view that STI cooperation projects implemented through their contributions have far-reaching effects and impacts on the socio-economic development of the ASEAN region.

20. The Meeting noted that the 19th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Science, Technology and Innovation (AMMSTI-19) would be hosted virtually by Viet Nam in May 2022.

21. The Meeting expressed appreciation to the Government and people of the Kingdom of Thailand for the warm hospitality accorded to them and for the excellent arrangements made.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

1. **H.E. Dato Seri Setia Abdul Mutalib Yusof**, Minister of Transport and Infocommunications, Ministry of Transport and Infocommunications Brunei Darussalam
2. **H.E. Mr. Kitti Settha Pandita Cham Prasih**, Senior Minister and Minister of Industry, Science, Technology & Innovation, Ministry of Industry, Science, Technology & Innovation, the Kingdom of Cambodia
3. **H.E. Dr. Laksana Tri Handoko**, Chairman of National Research and Innovation Agency, National Research and Innovation Agency, the Republic of Indonesia
4. **H.E. Prof. Dr. Souriodong Sundara**, Vice Minister of Education and Sports, representing **H.E. Prof. Dr. Phout Simmalavong**, Minister of Education and Sports, Ministry of Education and Sports, the Lao People's Democratic Republic
5. **H.E. Dr. Mohd Nor Azman bin Hassan**, Deputy Secretary General (Technology Development), representing **H.E. Mr. Khairy Jamaluddin bin Abu Bakar**, Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation, Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI), Malaysia
6. **H.E. Dr. Sai Kyaw Naing Oo**, Director General, Department of Technical and Vocational Education and Training, representing **H.E. Dr. Nyunt Phay**, Union Minister of Education, Ministry of Education, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar
7. **H.E. Prof. Fortunato T. de la Peña**, Secretary (Minister) of Science and Technology, Department of Science and Technology (DOST), the Republic of the Philippines
8. **H.E. Mr. Alvin Tan**, Minister of State, Ministry of Trade and Industry, representing **H.E. Mr. Gan Kim Yong**, Minister for Trade and Industry, the Republic of Singapore

9. **H.E. Prof. Dr. Anek Laothamatas**, Minister of Higher Education, Science, Research and Innovation, Ministry of Higher Education, Science, Research and Innovation, the Kingdom of Thailand
10. **H.E. Mr. Bui The Duy**, Deputy Minister of Science and Technology, representing **H.E. Mr. Huynh Thanh Dat**, Minister of Science and Technology, the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam
11. **H.E. Mr. Satvinder Singh**, Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN for ASEAN Economic Community, representing **H.E. Dato Lim Jock Hoi**, Secretary-General of ASEAN, ASEAN Secretariat.