

THE FIFTEENTH MEETING OF ASEAN PLUS THREE (CHINA, JAPAN AND REPUBLIC OF KOREA) TOURISM MINISTERS

22 January 2016, Manila, the Philippines

JOINT MEDIA STATEMENT

1. The Fifteenth Meeting of the ASEAN Plus Three (China, Japan, and the Republic of Korea) Tourism Ministers was held on 22 January 2016 in Manila, the Philippines, in conjunction with the Nineteenth Meeting of ASEAN Tourism Ministers (M-ATM) and the ASEAN Tourism Forum (ATF) 2016. The Meeting was co-chaired by H.E. Ramon R. Jimenez, Jr., Secretary of Tourism of the Philippines and H.E. Mr. Kim Chong, Vice Minister of Culture, Sports and Tourism of the Republic of Korea. The Meeting was preceded by the Twenty-Eighth Meeting of ASEAN Plus Three (APT) NTOs held on 20 January 2016.
2. The Ministers were pleased with the growth of the APT region's tourism industry in 2015. The APT region welcomed 250.9 million international visitors, an increase of 7.1% from 2014. The Ministers noted that the APT region remained the main source of tourism growth in the region, accounting for 67% of the total international visitor arrivals in 2014.
3. The Ministers agreed that further activities need to be carried out to implement the outcomes of the 18th APT Summit and the respective ASEAN Plus One Summits held on 21-22 November 2015 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, which underscored the importance of strengthening and broadening tourism cooperation in promoting people-to-people linkages in the East Asian region. In this regard, the Ministers signed the Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC) on ASEAN Plus Three Tourism Cooperation, which serves as the key instrument for more action-oriented cooperation, encouraging APT countries to enhance facilitation of travel and tourist visits, development of quality tourism and strengthening linkages and cooperation among education and training institutions. The Ministers agreed that the MOC will be implemented through conduct of joint projects, programmes and activities.
4. The Ministers acknowledged the good progress made in the implementation of the APT Tourism Cooperation Work Plan 2013-2017, including the organisation of the APT Tourism Youth Summit on 28 September-3 October 2015 in both Bohol and Cebu, collaboration on tourism security and safety practices through the ASEAN Tourism Security & Safety Guidelines and Online Resource Centre Website (www.aseantssrc.org), development of the ASEAN Plus Three Tourism Training and Education Network, and the APT Media Familiarisation Tour Programme.
5. The Ministers expressed appreciation to the ASEAN-China Centre, ASEAN-Japan Centre and ASEAN-Korea Centre for their active roles in promoting tourism and cultural exchanges between ASEAN and the Plus Three countries through convening of events, trainings and media promotion during the year 2015.
6. The ASEAN Tourism Ministers thanked China for their support in convening the China-ASEAN Expo Tourism Exhibition, China-ASEAN Tourism Sector Workshop for ASEAN Member States organised by CNTA and the Ministry of Commerce, provision of complimentary booths at China International Travel Mart 2015, and tourism education and training workshops for ASEAN Member States.

7. The ASEAN Tourism Ministers expressed their appreciation to Japan for their support including those extended through the implementation of the ASEAN-Japan Centre's Annual Work Program for FY2015, which consisted of capacity building programs on community-based tourism, sub-regional tourism promotion such as the Mekong Tourism Award, promotion of ASEAN tourism at various tourism events throughout Japan and exchange program for tourism students, with sustainable development as the center of these activities.

8. The ASEAN Tourism Ministers expressed appreciation to the Republic of Korea (ROK) for their support in developing ASEAN Tourism through consulting programmes, trainings, tourism sharing projects, and tourism student programmes.

9. The Ministers expressed their sincere appreciation to the Government and People of The Philippines for the warm hospitality accorded to all delegations attending the ATF 2016 and for the excellent arrangements made for the Meetings.

LIST OF MINISTERS

The Meeting was attended by:

- (i) Mr. Wardi Haji Mohammad Ali, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Primary Resources and Tourism, Brunei Darussalam, representing H.E. Dato Paduka Hj Ali Hj Apong, Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism, Brunei Darussalam;
- (ii) H.E. Dr. Thong Khon, Minister of Tourism, Cambodia;
- (iii) H.E. Mr. Wu Wenxue, Vice Chairman of China National Tourism Administration;
- (iv) Mr. I Gde Pitana, Deputy Minister for International Tourism Marketing Development, Ministry of Tourism, Indonesia, representing H.E. Dr. Arief Yahya, Minister of Tourism, Indonesia;
- (v) Ms. Yuri Furusawa, Vice Commissioner, Japan Tourism Agency, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism;
- (vi) H.E. Mr. Kim Chong, Vice Minister of Culture, Sports and Tourism, the Republic of Korea;
- (vii) H.E. Mr. Chaleune Warintrasak, Vice Minister of Information, Culture and Tourism, Lao PDR;
- (viii) H.E. Datuk Mas Ermieyati Samsudin, Deputy Minister of Tourism and Culture, Malaysia;
- (ix) H.E. U Ye Myint Aung, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Republic of the Philippines, Myanmar;
- (x) H.E. Mr. Ramon R. Jimenez, Jr., Secretary of Tourism, Philippines;
- (xi) Mr. Leong Yue Kheong, Assistant Chief Executive (International Group), Singapore Tourism Board, representing H.E. Mr. S. Iswaran, Minister for Trade and Industry (Industry), Singapore;
- (xii) H.E. Ms. Kobkarn Wattanavrangkul, Minister for Tourism and Sports, Thailand;
- (xiii) H.E. Ms. Dang Thi Bich Lien, Vice Minister of Culture, Sports and Tourism of Viet Nam; and

(xiv) H.E. Mr. Le Luong Minh, Secretary-General of ASEAN.
