

**JOINT STATEMENT OF THE
SECOND EAST ASIA SUMMIT EDUCATION MINISTERS MEETING
Vientiane, Lao PDR, 12 September 2014**

1. The Second East Asia Summit Education Ministers Meeting (2nd EAS EMM) was held on 12 September 2014 in Vientiane, Lao PDR in conjunction with the Eighth ASEAN Education Ministers' Meeting (8th ASED) and the Second ASEAN Plus Three Education Ministers' Meeting (2nd APT EMM). The Meeting was preceded by the Third EAS Senior Officials' Meeting on Education (3rd EAS SOM-ED) held on 10 September 2014 in Vientiane.
2. The Ministers agreed that a formal coordinating mechanism is required to support education cooperation under ASEAN, ASEAN Plus Three and EAS groupings to achieve synergy and avoid duplication. Ministers instructed EAS Senior Officials on Education to investigate and provide options to support strategic coordination between the three groupings.
3. The Ministers noted the Chairman's Statement of the 8th East Asia Summit held on 10 October 2013 in Banda Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam which reiterated the importance of education cooperation and the need to further strengthen human resource development in the region.
4. The Ministers reaffirmed that the overarching objective of education cooperation within the EAS until 2015 will be on improving the quality of education, harmonizing education systems, as appropriate, and promoting student mobility in the EAS participating countries and across the region.
5. The Meeting noted the 15 collaborative projects under the EAS Education Plan of Action 2011–2015 that are grouped under the strategic priorities of systems, community and connectivity.

Strategic Priority – Systems

6. The Meeting noted Australia's implementation of the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Quality Assurance Framework and noted that in-country workshops were convened in Cambodia, India, Lao PDR, Malaysia, and the Philippines. The Framework is a set of principles, standards and quality indicators designed to assist EAS countries to assess the quality of their TVET systems and develop them accordingly. Ministers endorsed the framework and agreed that strengthening TVET systems is vital to developing a skilled labour force across the region that can respond to market demand. This is particularly relevant given the approaching ASEAN Economic Community. Australia announced additional work using the framework would be undertaken in the second part of 2014 with Indonesia, Thailand, Myanmar and Vietnam, demonstrating the ongoing value of the TVET Quality Assurance Framework.
7. Ministers welcomed the feasibility study for an EAS Regional Facility for Education Quality Assessment at the primary school level, commissioned by Australia.

8. EAS Teaching Standards Framework – Brunei Darussalam.
9. Regional Credit Transfer System Harmonisation – Malaysia.
10. Regional Interoperability of National Qualifications Frameworks (RINQF) – India

Strategic Priority – Community

11. Ministers welcomed the steady progress of India’s revival of Nalanda University, an ancient Buddhist learning centre.
12. Ministers welcomed completion of the Second Language Teaching in the EAS project which was jointly implemented by Singapore and China, with a conference held in Singapore on 13–14 September 2013.
13. Ministers welcomed Korea’s implementation of the second phase of TVET Provider Network, which culminated in the first annual forum of the Network on 4–7 November 2013. The TVET Providers Network facilitates capacity building of TVET providers through the exchange of ideas, knowledge, expertise, and experiences. Korea acknowledged the work of Australia in completing the first phase and noted that Malaysia would be hosting the second annual forum later in 2014.
14. Teacher Mobility Study
EAS Regional Leadership Development Program – Singapore to report on EAS Teaching Resources Website – the Philippines

Strategic Priority – Connectivity

15. Capacity Building for Ratification of the UNESCO Convention on Qualifications Recognition in Asia and the Pacific
16. Facilitating TVET Teacher and Student Mobility – India, Indonesia
17. Register of TVET Providers in the EAS – Feasibility Study
18. Enhanced Collaboration between EAS Universities
Ministers welcomed Japan’s initiative to support Japanese universities’ educational collaboration with universities in the EAS countries.
19. Ministers welcomed Australia’s commitment to regional collaboration and partnership through its Capacity Building for Quality Assurance in Higher Education project. The project supported officials from across the EAS region to participate in a course that contributes towards a Graduate Certificate in Higher Education delivered at the University of Melbourne LH Martin Institute. The initiative offered the opportunity for regional quality assurance officials to enhance their capacities in an environment that encouraged participants to share their own knowledge, experience and expertise.
20. Ministers were pleased with the substantial cooperation between EAS countries and the significant progress on many of the collaborative projects and the additional education cooperation activities that have taken place.
21. The Ministers welcomed the additional commitments made by XXXX, XXX and XXX to work together on outstanding education cooperation projects.
22. Having taken stock of progress made under the *EAS Education Plan of Action 2011–2015* and examined the remaining challenges, Ministers encouraged all

countries to complete their projects where possible, noting that some projects may need to continue after 2015. Ministers further agreed that it is necessary to evaluate the current Action Plan and welcomed Australia's offer to sponsor this evaluation. This will ensure that learnings from the current Action Plan are considered in developing the next Action Plan and future education cooperation activities achieve maximum impact and effectiveness.

23. Ministers had productive discussions on the future direction of education cooperation between EAS participating countries and envisioning a strategic direction post-2015. Ministers supported Australia's suggestion to hold a SOM-ED in 2015 to maintain education cooperation momentum. Ministers agreed that the 4th EAS SOM-ED will take place in [month] 2015, and Senior Officials on Education were instructed to articulate a vision for the EAS EMM post-2015 which would provide the foundation for developing a successor action plan at the SOM-ED in 2016, with a view to seeking Ministerial endorsement at the 4th EAS EMM in 2016.
24. Ministers recognised that further resourcing of the ASEAN Secretariat was required to maximise the outcomes of ongoing EAS education cooperation.
25. Ministers requested that the ASEAN Secretariat consult with the Chair to develop an EAS SOM-ED Terms of Reference document for further discussion at the next EAS SOM-ED.
26. The Ministers welcomed the UNESCO World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) to be held in Japan in November 2014 and expected further promotion of ESD beyond 2014.
27. The Ministers welcomed Malaysia to host the 3rd EAS EMM, which will be held back-to-back with the 9th ASED and the 2nd APT EMM in 2016.
28. The Ministers agreed to report the outcomes of the 2nd EAS EMM to the 9th East Asia Summit which will be held in Nay Pyi Daw, Myanmar in November 2014.
29. The Ministers expressed their appreciation to Lao PDR for the warm hospitality extended to the delegates and the excellent arrangements made in hosting the 2nd EAS EMM. The Ministers also acknowledged and thanked the ASEAN Secretariat for its valuable contribution to the meeting.