

**JOINT STATEMENT OF THE
THIRD EAST ASIA SUMMIT EDUCATION MINISTERS MEETING**

26 May 2016, Selangor, Malaysia

1. The Third East Asia Summit Education Ministers Meeting (3rd EAS EMM) was held on 26 May 2016 in Selangor, Malaysia in conjunction with the Ninth ASEAN Education Ministers Meeting (9th ASED) and the Third ASEAN Plus Three Education Ministers Meeting (3rd APT EMM).
2. In view of the conclusion of the EAS Education Plan of Action 2011-2015, the Ministers **recalled the objective of the first EAS EMM in 2012** which allowed for stocktaking of progress made in education cooperation based on the adopted EAS Education Plan of Action 2011-2015 at that time. The Ministers **recapped that the purpose of the Plan of Action 2011-2015** was to explore possibilities of cooperation in education among the EAS participating countries with the aim of further strengthening human resource development in the region.
3. Notwithstanding the expiration of the EAS Education Plan of Action 2011-2015, the Ministers **noted the continued implementation of the 15 projects under the Plan of Action**, and **acknowledged the commitment and efforts of the EAS participating countries** in the implementation of the initiatives. The Ministers further **agreed that the remaining EAS projects** under the Plan of Action 2011-2015 be continued under the leadership of respective EAS participating countries without necessarily involving the collective EAS.
4. The Ministers **expressed appreciation to Australia** for the review of the EAS Education Plan of Action 2011-2015 which identified some fundamental questions that are intended to assist EAS participating countries to build on the successes and enhance future EAS cooperation on education.
5. In pursuit of harmonised efforts on education cooperation within the framework of ASEAN, the Ministers **stressed the importance** of fostering long-term and mutually beneficial educational cooperation and promoting people-to-people exchanges through **alignment of the future EAS Cooperation on Education and ensuring its complementation with the ASEAN Work Plan on Education 2016-2020**.
6. The Ministers **agreed to stimulate greater cooperation under the EAS EMM framework** particularly on agreed-upon priority areas lifted from the ASEAN Work Plan on Education 2016-2020. The Ministers **looked forward** to more effective coordination and contribution from all participating EAS countries and **requested** them to identify priority work areas in the ASEAN Work Plan on Education 2016-2020 to collaborate on.
7. The Ministers **expressed their appreciation to Malaysia** for the warm hospitality extended to the delegates and the excellent arrangements made in hosting the 3rd EAS EMM. The Ministers also acknowledged and thanked the ASEAN Secretariat for its valuable contribution to the Meeting.
