

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

**26 January 2018, Chiang Mai, Thailand**

### **JOINT MEDIA STATEMENT**

1. The Seventeenth Meeting of the ASEAN Plus Three (China, Japan, and the Republic of Korea) Tourism Ministers was held on 26 January 2018 in Chiang Mai, Thailand, in conjunction with the Twenty-First Meeting of ASEAN Tourism Ministers (M-ATM) and the ASEAN Tourism Forum (ATF) 2018. The Meeting was co-chaired by H.E. Mr. Weerasak Kowsurat, Minister of Tourism and Sports of Thailand and H.E. Mr. Du Jiang, Vice Chairman of China National Tourism Administration. The Meeting was preceded by the Thirty-Second Meeting of ASEAN Plus Three (APT) National Tourism Organisations (NTOs) held on 24 January 2018.
2. The Ministers were pleased to note the growth of the APT region's tourism industry in 2017, with the APT region welcoming 175 million international visitors, a growth of 6.7 per cent compared to 2016.
3. The Ministers welcomed the decisions of the 20<sup>th</sup> APT Summit and relevant ASEAN Plus One Summits held on 14 November 2017 in Manila, Philippines. The Ministers were pleased to note the successful outcome of APT Tourism Youth events, particularly in the convening of APT Tourism Youth Summit on 19-23 September 2017 in Bangkok, Thailand and on 24-29 September 2017 in Manila, Philippines, and the organisation of APT Youth for Competitive and Sustainable Tourism Development on 15-19 October 2017 in Okayama and Toba, Japan.
4. The Ministers appreciated the progress made in the implementation of the APT Tourism Cooperation Work Plan 2013-2017, including, among others, the development of the ASEAN Plus Three Tourism Training and Education Network Directory, the APT Media Familiarisation Tour Programme, Singapore and Japan Destination Workshop for travel agents in April 2017 and Seminars for Cruise Travel Agents in January, September and October 2017.
5. In sustaining the implementation of the Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC) on ASEAN Plus Three Tourism Cooperation, the Ministers adopted the APT Tourism Cooperation Work Plan 2018-2020 as the successor of the APT Tourism Cooperation Work Plan 2013-2017. The 2018-2020 Work Plan will continue to provide direction to further enhance APT cooperation in facilitating travel and tourist visits, promoting the development of quality tourism, improving tourism knowledge and skill development, as well as sharing and exchanging information and best practices on tourism statistics, investment opportunities, and tourism marketing and promotion.
6. The ASEAN Tourism Ministers expressed their gratitude to China for the support in ASEAN-China tourism collaboration, especially the successful implementation of the 2017 ASEAN-China Year of Tourism Cooperation through various activities. Following the Closing Ceremony for the 2017 China-ASEAN Tourism Cooperation Year held on 17 November 2017 in Kunming, China, the Ministers looked forward to significant growth in two-way tourism. The Ministers welcomed the issuance of the ASEAN-China Joint Statement on Tourism Cooperation, and reiterated their commitment to strengthen, deepen and broaden cooperation in tourism between ASEAN and China.

7. The ASEAN Tourism Ministers expressed their appreciation to Japan for their support in ASEAN-Japan tourism cooperation activities, which include organising the Seminar on Accessible Tourism on 7 February 2017, Mekong Tourism Award 2017 held on 8 May 2017, Tourism Promotion Seminar held on 28 March 2017, and the convening of International Symposium on International Year of Sustainable Tourism Development 2017 on 15-19 October 2017.

8. The ASEAN Tourism Ministers expressed their gratitude to the Republic of Korea (ROK) for their support in ASEAN-ROK tourism collaboration, including the convening of Seminars on Tourism Policy Implementation on 27 February – 7 March 2017, FAM Tour with Vietnam Airlines on 22-28 April 2017, the organisation of KTX Discount Campaign for Malaysian FIT with KORAIL, and 2017 High-Level Policy Forum on Tourism Development and Knowledge Sharing Seminar.

9. The Ministers applauded the vigorous, pivotal roles of the ASEAN-China Centre, ASEAN-Japan Centre and ASEAN-Korea Centre in promoting tourism, people-to-people and cultural exchanges between ASEAN and the Plus Three countries throughout the year 2017.

10. The Ministers expressed their sincere appreciation to the Government and People of Thailand for the warm hospitality accorded to all delegations attending the ATF 2018 and for the excellent arrangements made for the Meetings.

### **LIST OF MINISTERS**

The Meeting was attended by:

- (i) H.E. Dato Ali Apong, Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism, Brunei Darussalam;
- (ii) H.E. Mr. Tith Chantha, Deputy Minister of Tourism, Cambodia;
- (iii) H.E. Mr. Du Jiang, Vice Chairman of China National Tourism Administration;
- (iv) H.E. Dr. Arief Yahya, Minister of Tourism, Indonesia;
- (v) H.E. Mr. Kazuo Yana, Parliamentary Vice-Minister, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism of Japan;
- (vi) Mr. Keum Gihyung, Director General for Tourism Policy, representing H.E. Mr. Do Jongwhan, Minister of Culture, Sports and Tourism, the Republic of Korea;
- (vii) H.E. Prof. Dr. Bosengkham Vongdara, Minister of Information, Culture and Tourism, Lao PDR;
- (viii) H.E. Dato' Seri Mohamed Nazri bin Abdul Aziz, Minister of Tourism and Culture, Malaysia;
- (ix) H.E. U Ohn Maung, Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism, Myanmar;
- (x) H.E. Benito C. Bengzon, Jr., Undersecretary of Tourism, Philippines;
- (xi) Mr. Lionel Yeo, Chief Executive, Singapore Tourism Board, representing H.E. Mr. S. Iswaran, Minister for Trade and Industry (Industry), Singapore;
- (xii) H.E. Mr. Weerasak Kowsurat, Minister for Tourism and Sports, Thailand;
- (xiii) H.E. Mr. Nguyen Ngoc Thien, Minister of Culture, Sports and Tourism of Viet Nam;  
and

- (xiv) H.E. Mr. Hirubalan V P, Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN for ASEAN Political Security Community.

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