

**Vientiane Declaration**  
**On Promoting Infrastructure Development Cooperation in East Asia**  
**Vientiane, 8 September 2016**  
-----

**WE**, the Heads of State/Government of the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), Australia, People's Republic of China, Republic of India, Japan, Republic of Korea, New Zealand, Russian Federation and the United States of America on the occasion of the 11<sup>th</sup> East Asia Summit (EAS) held in Vientiane, Lao PDR on 8 September 2016;

**REAFFIRMING** our strong commitment to strengthen the EAS as a Leaders-led forum for dialogue on broad strategic, political and economic issues of common interest and concern with the aim of promoting peace, stability and economic prosperity in East Asia;

**ACKNOWLEDGING** that efficient and sustainable infrastructure development in ASEAN is essential for trade, investment and service competitiveness in the Asia-Pacific region;

**RECOGNIZING** that infrastructure decisions and investments made in coming years will be vital to efforts to meet our shared objective to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change, in the context of sustainable development and efforts to eradicate poverty, including making finance flows consistent with a pathway towards low greenhouse gas emissions and climate-resilient development, as enshrined in the Paris Agreement adopted at the 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Paris, France within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;

**EMPHASIZING** the importance of promoting quality infrastructure development, which ensures factors such as economic efficiency in view of life cycle cost, safety, resilience and sustainability, job creation, capacity building, transfer of expertise and know-how, and alignment with economic and development strategies while addressing social and environmental impacts, as a means to uplift living standards of our peoples, resolve urban transport problems, meet the increasing energy demand, enhance connectivity and increase trade and investment within the region, which ultimately contributes to the region's sustainable economic development;

**REITERATING** the importance of the development in the long-term of enhanced connectivity within East Asia to support ASEAN connectivity;

**RECALLING** the Declaration of the Sixth East Asia Summit on ASEAN Connectivity and its support for the effective and timely implementation of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) in all three pillars, namely physical, institutional and people-to-people connectivity;

**WELCOMING** the significant progress achieved in the implementation of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) adopted in 2010 and the adoption of the

Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity 2025 (MPAC 2025) by the ASEAN Leaders at the 28<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit;

**RECOGNIZING** the financial resources and technical assistance for infrastructure development available in the region, including the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB); Japan's Expanded Partnership for Quality Infrastructure of US\$ 200 billion; India's Credit Line of US\$ 1 billion; the Asian Development Bank-led (ADB) Asia Pacific Project Preparation Facility (AP3F); the World Bank's Global Infrastructure Facility (GIF); the World Bank-Singapore Infrastructure and Urban Development Hub; and U.S. ASEAN Connect Initiatives such as the Lower Mekong Initiative's Sustainable Infrastructure Partnership; as well as through project preparation and financing, including from the U.S. Trade and Development Agency, Export-Import Bank, and Overseas Private Investment Corporation;

**WELCOMING** the Global Infrastructure Hub, launched by the G20 in Brisbane, Australia in 2014 which would facilitate information-sharing and collaboration between Governments, the private sector, large institutional investors and international organisations related to infrastructure investment;

**RECALLING** the inaugural Global Infrastructure Forum of April 2015, which aimed to enhance coordination among multilateral development banks and their development partners to better develop sustainable, accessible, resilient, and quality infrastructure for developing countries;

**NOTING** the imbalance between the availability of infrastructure funds and the actual needs of infrastructure development in most countries in ASEAN;

**RECOGNISING** that while public and private financing is potentially available for infrastructure development, there is a need for many countries in ASEAN to advance their public sector's capacity, develop domestic debt finance markets and improve investment climate;

**ACKNOWLEDGING** that access to financial resources, project development, technology development and capacity building, as well as the role of public-private partnerships, are critical;

**REALIZING** that as inclusive and sustainable development is vital for East Asia's collective growth, ASEAN will strive to align infrastructure development projects with the 2030 United Nations' Agenda for Sustainable Development;

**EMPHASIZING** that both economic and social infrastructure are preconditions for development and are equally critical for sustaining growth;

**COGNISANT** that a fully integrated and connected ASEAN will not only benefit and improve the prosperity of the people of ASEAN, but also the people of ASEAN's Dialogue Partners;

**DO HEREBY DECIDE TO:**

- Support and facilitate cooperation among EAS participating countries in sustainable infrastructure development initiatives, including resource mobilization, sharing of expertise, best practices and information, promoting cooperation in management and sustainable use of natural resources, green and clean technology to protect the environment and eco-system through bilateral, regional and sub-regional frameworks of cooperation such as the Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS); Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy (ACMECS); Mekong-Ganga Cooperation; Mekong-Japan cooperation; the Lower Mekong Initiative; Mekong-Republic of Korea cooperation; Mekong-Lancang Cooperation; the Brunei Darussalam-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East ASEAN Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA); Indonesia-Malaysia-Thailand Growth Triangle (IMT-GT) and others;
- Encourage all EAS participating countries to further facilitate and assist in identifying cooperation projects that meet the criteria and requirements necessary to access financial resources and technical assistance available in the region, including from the Asian Development Bank (ADB); the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB); Japan's Expanded Partnership for Quality Infrastructure of US\$ 200 billion announced in 2016; and India's Credit Line of US\$ 1 billion;
- Encourage enhanced investment, financial and technical support, especially from the private sector, to ASEAN Member States to carry out infrastructure projects and other projects related to connectivity, as well as encourage greater investment in infrastructure development projects in ASEAN Member States, with due application, as appropriate, of social and environmental safeguards;
- Cooperate with ASEAN Member States in infrastructure planning, design, construction, operation and maintenance as well as support ASEAN Member States to develop sectors such as railways, roads, inland-waterways, regional aviation, ports, oil and gas pipelines, energy and telecommunications networks to enhance ASEAN capacity for sustainable economic development and to enhance trade and investment opportunities across the region;
- Encourage investment in the energy sector, including high quality and sustainable energy infrastructure, as well as to develop transparent and competitive energy markets such as for the global natural gas trade;
- Support ASEAN's effort towards realising the ASEAN Power Grid;
- Enhance cooperation to support ASEAN Connectivity, including through capacity building and resource mobilization for the implementation of the MPAC 2025, as well as promotion of regional trade and economic cooperation linkages;
- Increase cooperation in maritime connectivity through the development of sustainable and resilient infrastructure, logistics and port management, to promote economic growth that will not only contribute to narrowing

development gaps but also promote regional integration and the community building process;

- Promote cooperation in air transport connectivity to enhance regional air services to support economic linkages as well as to facilitate people to people connectivity;
- Encourage all EAS participating countries and other external partners, including Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the AIIB, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the World Bank to promote quality infrastructure investment in the region through considering increasing technical assistance, utilizing the existing funds and providing training programmes for professionals in infrastructure and connectivity related sectors, including on smart green infrastructure, and sharing experiences and policies and practices to ASEAN Member States;
- Support cooperation, co-financing, and collaboration among multilateral and regional development banks, inter alia, the World Bank, the ADB, and the AIIB, to facilitate the identification, preparation and financing of bankable infrastructure development projects and initiatives in ASEAN with a view to promoting regional connectivity and contributing to inclusive and sustainable economic growth;
- Encourage sustainable and efficient infrastructure investment to support ASEAN in implementing infrastructure projects by promoting greater private sector involvement through the effective use of modalities such as public-private partnerships, enhancing fiscal capacity of developing countries in the region and other measures;
- Encourage sustainable infrastructure investment and encourage stakeholder input in investment decisions that promote the development and application of national and regional social and environmental safeguards;
- Continue efforts to make regional connectivity vibrant and effective through the early completion of projects listed in the MPAC 2025 and the Comprehensive Asia Development Plan 2.0 to improve East-West Economic Corridor and Southern Economic Corridor;
- Support the objective of the ASEAN Infrastructure Fund (AIF) to foster infrastructure development within ASEAN;
- Improve the use of Kunming-Bangkok Highway, complete ASEAN Highway Network project and consider the construction of the Singapore-Kunming Rail Link main lines and detailed designs for the spur lines.

Adopted by the Heads of State/Government of the Participating Countries of the East Asia Summit in Vientiane, Lao PDR, on 8 September 2016.