

## ASEAN calls for women and girls' participation in sports



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**NAY PYI TAW, 24 October 2018** – ASEAN sports officials endorsed initiatives for healthy and active lifestyle, including women and girls' participation in sports. They gathered in the capital of Myanmar from October 22 to 23 for the Eighth ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Sports (SOMS-8) and related meetings.

The SOMS-8 endorsed a number of regional initiatives to encourage active lifestyle, which also include the revitalisation of the ASEAN traditional sports and games in schools and community, and sports for life skills development and peace.

The inaugural ASEAN Plus Japan Senior Officials Meeting on Sports (1st SOMS+Japan) was held on 23 October as a follow up the outcome of the First ASEAN Plus Japan Ministerial Meeting on Sports.

The meeting observed the four pillars of cooperation under the ASEAN-Japan Collaborative Work Programme on Sports, namely the development of physical education teachers and coaches, women in sports, sport for persons with disabilities, and anti-doping. It agreed to move forward with women in sports as well as the development of physical education teachers and coaches as priorities for collaboration with Japan.

The ASEAN Plus Japan Special Meeting on Women and Sports was also convened back-to-back with the 1st SOMS+Japan and endorsed the development of the ASEAN-Japan Future Actions on Women and Sports project proposal. Through this project, ASEAN and Japan aim to address the most pressing issues affecting women's participation in sports in ASEAN.

Entities associated with ASEAN, namely the ASEAN Chess Confederation, ASEAN Para Sports Federation and the Southeast Asia Anti-Doping Organisation, were also invited to SOMS-8 to present their achievements and future collaborations with ASEAN.

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