



JOINT STATEMENT OF THE SEVENTH ASEAN PLUS THREE EDUCATION MINISTERS MEETING

26 August 2024
Buriram, Thailand

1. The Seventh ASEAN Plus Three Education Ministers Meeting (7th APT EMM) was held in Buriram, Thailand on 26 August 2024 in conjunction with the 7th East Asia Summit Education Ministers Meeting (7th EAS EMM). The Meeting was preceded by the 14th ASEAN Plus Three Senior Officials Meeting on Education (14th SOM-ED+3) held on 24 August 2024. The meeting was co-chaired by His Excellency Police General Permpoon Chidchob, Minister of Education of Thailand, and His Excellency Mr. Yano Kazuhiko, Senior Deputy Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, Japan.
2. We extend our congratulations to Thailand and Japan for assuming the co-Chairmanship of the ASEAN Plus Three Education Ministers Meeting for 2024 to 2025. We express satisfaction for the strengthened partnerships between ASEAN Member States and the People's Republic of China, Japan, and the Republic of Korea as guided by the ASEAN Plus Three Plan of Action on Education 2018–2025.
3. Embracing the theme of Thailand's Chairmanship "*Transforming Education in the Digital Era*", we recognise that digital technology has the potential to increase access to education and participation among **people in vulnerable situations**, enhance teaching and learning practices, and optimise the use of educational data for evidence-based planning and policy formulation. Collaborative initiatives among APT countries are pivotal in addressing common challenges such as digital literacy gaps, cybersecurity concerns, and the digital divide.
4. We reaffirm the pivotal role of ASEAN Plus Three cooperation in supporting and contributing to ASEAN Member States' education initiatives, including the ongoing implementation of the ASEAN Plus Three Plan of Action on Education 2018-2025 and the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Workplan 2023-2027.
5. We note with appreciation the substantial progress in implementing the ASEAN Plus Three Plan of Action on Education 2018–2025, applauding the continued cooperation and commitment of ASEAN Plus Three countries.
6. We commend the Working Group on Student Mobility and Quality Assurance of Higher Education among ASEAN Plus Three Countries (APTWG) for their efforts in spearheading initiatives aimed at facilitating student mobility, promoting innovative educational exchanges, and ensuring quality assurance across borders. We fully adopt the Revised ASEAN Plus Three Guidelines on Student Exchange and Mobility: The New Normal Exchanges and Mobility, and express

appreciation to the Republic of Korea for leading this initiative to promote the internationalisation of higher education.

7. Reiterating the importance of the work of the ASEAN Plus Three Plan of Action on Education 2018–2025 and the ASEAN Work Plan on Education 2021-2025, we aim to facilitate the continued cooperation on education between ASEAN Member States and the People's Republic of China, Japan, and the Republic of Korea.
8. We value the contribution of scholarships and people-to-people exchanges to social and economic development. In this context, we appreciate the People's Republic of China for spearheading initiatives such as the ASEAN-China Young Leaders Scholarship Programme, the ASEAN-China Education Cooperation Week, and the 2024 ASEAN-China Year of the People-to-People Exchanges.
9. We appreciate the Republic of Korea for its continued commitment to enhancing collaboration and fostering partnership with initiatives such as the Higher Education for ASEAN Talents (HEAT) Scholarships, the ASEAN Cyber University Project.
10. We commend Japan's continuous support in strengthening people-to-people connectivity including scholarship and exchange programmes such as the MEXT scholarship, JENESYS (Japan-East Asia Network of Exchange for Students and Youths), Partnership to Co-create a Future with the Next Generation: WA Project 2.0, ASIA KAKEHASHI Project+ (Plus), Networking Exchange, United Strength for Stronger Partnerships between Japan and ASEAN (NEXUS) Sakura Science Exchange Program, International Fellowship for Research in Japan and ASEAN University Network /Southeast Asia Engineering Education Development Network (AUN/SEED-Net) Program.
11. We value Japan's efforts in promoting Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) among ASEAN Plus Three countries through the regional programmes such as the SEAMEO-Japan ESD Award and UNESCO Programme on ESD. Recognising the pivotal role of ESD in achieving sustainable development goals, we strongly advocate for increased collaboration and exchange of good practices among APT countries in this critical area.
12. We remain committed to continued collaborations among ASEAN Plus Three Countries, SEAMEO Secretariat, ASEAN University Network, and other relevant entities on programmes and initiatives that contribute to the ASEAN Work Plan on Education 2021-2025 and the ASEAN Plus Three Plan of Action on Education 2018-2025.
13. We express our sincere appreciation to Thailand for the effective chairmanship and excellent arrangements made in hosting the 7th ASEAN Plus Three Education Ministers Meeting, as well as the ASEAN Secretariat, for its technical assistance to the Meeting.

14. We agree to convene in 2026 at the 8th ASEAN Plus Three Education Ministers Meeting under the Chairmanship of Singapore.

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