



JOINT STATEMENT OF THE SEVENTH EAST ASIA SUMMIT EDUCATION MINISTERS MEETING

26 August 2024
Buriram, Thailand

1. The Seventh East Asia Summit Education Ministers Meeting (7th EAS EMM) was held in Buriram, Thailand on 26 August 2024. The Meeting was preceded by the 9th East Asia Summit Senior Officials Meeting on Education (9th EAS-SOM-ED) held on 24 August 2024. The Meeting was chaired by His Excellency Police General Permpoon Chidchob, Minister of Education of Thailand.
2. We note with appreciation the contribution of East Asia Summit Education Ministers participating countries in the implementation of the 14 priority areas of cooperation under the education component of the Manila Plan of Action to Advance the Phnom Penh Declaration on the East Asia Summit Development Initiative (2018-2022). Building on the progress achieved, we look forward to continued cooperation in the area of education to implement the East Asia Summit Plan of Action (2024-2028).
3. We express concern about the impacts of regional and global crises, including health emergencies, climate change, increased frequency of natural disasters, and conflict, on school safety and resilience. We reaffirm our commitment to prompt actions of East Asia Summit Education Ministers participating countries and partners to protect education, ensure safe school environments, and address the challenges posed by these global crises.
4. We reiterate our commitment to prioritise digital transformation of education systems by fostering digital skills, literacy, considering the ethics and opportunities of artificial intelligence (AI), promoting 21st century skills and competencies in our curricula and higher education offerings, and ICT-enabled teaching and learning. In this regard, we emphasise the importance of advancing regional cooperation and sharing best practices among the East Asia Summit Education Ministers participating countries including contributions to ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework.
5. We also emphasise the importance of continued synergy and complementarity of the activities of the *East Asia Summit Plan of Action (2024-2028)* to the *ASEAN Workplan on Education (2021-2025)*.

6. We reaffirm the importance of enhancing student mobility and appreciate the continued collaboration between ASEAN and Australia, the People's Republic of China, the Republic of India, Japan, the Republic of Korea, New Zealand, the Russian Federation, and the United States of America in providing scholarships and promoting quality-assured student mobility programmes in the region.
7. We acknowledge with satisfaction the long-term scholarships and short-term skill training programme, such as the Australia for ASEAN Scholarships, which support the implementation of the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific, and the support through Australia for ASEAN Digital Transformation and Future Skills Initiative, including the ASEAN Green Jobs Forum held on 24-25 April 2024 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia and support for 350 vocational scholars to study in Australia. We look forward to the further implementation of additional Australia for ASEAN Scholarship, co-funded by Australian universities, and Australia for ASEAN Fellowships announced at the ASEAN-Australia Special Summit to commemorate the 50th anniversary of ASEAN-Australia Dialogue Relations.
8. We commend Australia and New Zealand's long-standing contribution on the ASEAN Qualifications Reference Framework initiatives. We encourage enhanced cooperation to further understand systems of education, qualifications, qualification recognition, and quality assurance, to support labour and learner mobility.
9. We note with appreciation that ASEAN Member States and China advance education cooperation through the implementation of Building an Amicable Home Together: Vision and Action on ASEAN-China Education Cooperation and Development (2022-2030), especially strengthening the cooperation in talent cultivation, research collaboration, vocational education and digital transformation of education. We also recognise China's commitment to education cooperation among East Asia Summit Education Ministers participating countries, to improve the quality of human resource, enhance mutual learning, promote economic recovery and achieve common prosperity and development.
10. We are pleased to note and express our appreciation to India on the Nalanda University Scholarships for students pursuing Master's and PhD Diploma, ASEAN-India Network of Universities (AINU), ASEAN-India Research and Training Fellowships (AIRTF), ASEAN-India Collaborative R&D Programme, ASEAN-India Fellowship for Higher Education in Agriculture and Allied Sciences and setting up of Centre of Excellence in Software Development and Training (CESDT) in CLMV countries to strengthen education cooperation and expanding existing cooperation.
11. We acknowledge with satisfaction the contribution of Japan towards the implementation of the Education Component of the Manila Plan of Action, including the Inter-University Exchange Project, EDU-Port Japan, Sakura

Science Exchange Program, International Fellowships for Research in Japan, UNESCO Japan Prize on ESD, and UNESCO Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications in Higher Education.

12. We reaffirm our commitment to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through education. We emphasise the importance of inclusive and equitable quality education, digital learning, relevant curricular content, qualified teachers, and gender equality, and we promote lifelong learning opportunities for all. To achieve these goals, we also reaffirm our commitment to Global Citizenship Education (GCED) and support the Republic of Korea's initiatives on GCED within the East Asia Summit region.
13. We acknowledge the Republic of Korea's continuous and effective contributions to Technical and Vocational Education and training system development including Teacher's Digital Competency Development Program and 7th EAS TVET Network Conference developing New TVET Strategy through the EAS TVET Network initiatives.
14. We commend New Zealand's contribution to student mobility in ASEAN, such as the Manaaki Short Term Training Scholarships for Citizens of ASEAN and Timor-Leste and the Prime Minister's Scholarships for Asia, and for fostering education cooperation, policy dialogue, and institutional partnerships between New Zealand and ASEAN countries through a range of Education Cooperation Arrangements.
15. We look forward to the implementation of the ASEAN-Russia Plan of Action on Education 2022-2026 and the productive meeting between the ASEAN – Russia Working Group on Education in the near future. We are pleased to note and express our appreciation to the Russian Federation for its policies and activities in the field of Digital Education and for invitation of the EAS countries to take part in the annual Conference on Cooperation in Higher Education in the Asia-Pacific Region on September 4, 2024.
16. We commend the support of the United States in building a more inclusive and empowered ASEAN Community through various capacity building and development programmes for the important education initiatives under the Plan of Action to Implement the ASEAN-U.S. Comprehensive Strategic Partnership 2021 – 2025. Each year, the United States provides more than \$70 million in support of educational and cultural exchanges with the people of Southeast Asia. These exchanges include the short-term programs for capacity building such as the International Visitor Leadership (IVLP), Academy of Women Entrepreneurs, the Community Solutions Program, and TechGirls as well as longer-term scholarships and fellowships. Both the Fulbright US-ASEAN Visiting Scholars Initiative and the Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative (YSEALI) Academic and Professional Fellowships doubled the number of annual program participants as a deliverable of the 2022-ASEAN U.S. Special

Summit. We also acknowledge the positive impact of YSEALI has had over the past decade.

17. We reiterate the importance of collaborative efforts across sectors and highly encourage all participating East Asia Summit Education Ministers countries to continue to explore collaborations in implementing relevant programmes/projects/activities with emphasis on inclusive, equitable and quality early childhood, primary, secondary, technical and vocational education and training, green skill, higher education, and digital transformation.
18. We express our sincere appreciation to Thailand for the effective chairmanship and excellent arrangements made in hosting the 7th East Asia Summit Education Ministers Meeting as well as the ASEAN Secretariat, for their valuable support to the Meeting.
19. We further noted that the 8th East Asia Summit Education Ministers Meeting will be hosted by Singapore in 2026.
