

**REPORT
THE TWENTY MEETING OF
THE ASEAN SECTORAL WORKING GROUP ON AGRICULTURAL
COOPERATIVES
(20th ASWGAC) BOARD
25-26 July 2018, Langkawi, Malaysia**

ROADMAP FOR AN ASEAN COMMUNITY (2016-2025)

The Meeting noted the adoption of “Vision for a Resilient and Innovative ASEAN” during the 32nd ASEAN Summit by ASEAN Leaders, as an articulation of ASEAN’s strategic position and intent in the context of a shifting geopolitical and economic landscape.

STRATEGIC PLAN OF ACTION OF THE ASWGAC (2016-2020)

The Meeting discussed and updated several sub activities on the SPA to support the implementation of action programmes. The Meeting identified priority activities for 2018-2019 which includes i) development of Roadmap for Agriculture Development in ASEAN, ii) ASEAN Learning Series, iii) ACBF and iv) Exchange Visit.

ASEAN ROADMAP FOR AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT

The Meeting noted the ASEAN Roadmap for Enhancing the Role of Agricultural Cooperative in the Global Value Chain, 2018 – 2025, which was circulated to ASWGAC focal points on 2 May 2018 with copy to SOM-AMAF. The roadmap, which consists of four (4) pillars namely; 1) Competitiveness, 2) Access to finance (for investments and working capital), 3) Access to Markets, 4) Institutional/Capacity development, and a total of nine (9) measures. The Roadmap is aimed to i) provide a direction for enhancing participation of the ASEAN agricultural cooperatives in the Global Value Chain; ii) advance the implementation of Strategic Thrusts 2 (Enhance trade facilitation, economic integration and market access) and 5 (Assist resource constrained small producers and SMEs to improve productivity, technology and product quality, to meet global market standards and increase competitiveness in line with the ASEAN policy Blueprint on SME development) of the ASEAN Cooperation in Food, Agriculture and Forestry 2016-2025 (FAF 2025); and iii) be used as a reference to harmonize the Agricultural cooperatives’ legal frameworks and institutional arrangements in ASEAN member countries.

ASEAN COOPERATION WITH DIALOGUE PARTNERS AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

1. Project for Strengthening Capacity Building in Agriculture Sector in ASEAN Countries (CB Project) – Phase 3

The Project Coordinator, Mr. Hiroaki Kinoshita, informed the Meeting on the activities implemented since last meeting of ACEDAC. The activities of the Project include the Annual Coordination Meeting (ACM), agricultural policy seminar, training courses, bilateral training in Japan, dispatched of Japanese short-term experts and monitoring and evaluation. The Meeting noted that the CB Project – Phase 3 has been implemented since October 2017. The Meeting appreciated the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) Japan of CB Project – Phase 3 in supporting capacity building in agriculture sector. AMS also explored opportunity to seek funding from the Project for training for other topics and to also prioritize farmer member of agricultural cooperatives and farmer organizations to participate in the training.

2. Project on Human Resource Development in Food-related Areas through Partnership with Universities in ASEAN Region

The Meeting noted the progress report on Human Resources Development in Food-Related Areas through partnership program with universities in ASEAN countries Project (HRD Project) – Phase 2. The Meeting noted on various activities of the Project in which, among others, Advisory Committee Meeting (ACM) and Lectures and Partnership with 10 universities in all AMS and also noted the implementation plan of the Project for the year 2018 – 2019. The Meeting appreciated the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) Japan of the HRD Project – Phase 2.

OTHER MATTERS

1. Presentation from ASEAN Foundation on the progress of AFOSP and activities for 2018 – 2019

The Meeting noted the presentation from AFOSP/AF/AFA on the progress of AFOSP and its activities. The Meeting noted various activities supported by AFOSP namely, ASEAN Learning Series and Policy Engagement on Agricultural Cooperatives (ALSPEAC) in 2017, ASEAN - EU Youth Forum: Youth Engagement in Food Crops Production and Value Chain in 2017, The 7th ASEAN Cooperative Business Forum, ASEAN Coffee Corner, and Regional Consultation on ASEAN Roadmap for Agricultural Cooperatives in 2017, and ASEAN Learning Series on Quality Management along the Agri-Value-Chains in 2018. The Meeting also appreciated the support from the EU and IFAD to ASWGAC and ACEDAC through AFOSP. 36. The

Meeting was informed that AFOSP will be ended by 2019 and is in the process of securing the support for the new phase. In line with this, the Meeting would explore possibility to have new phase supporting the work of ASWGAC and ACEDAC. The Meeting also tasked ASEAN Foundation and AFA through AFOSP or other new Programme/Project to seek for a potential donor to assist ASWGAC and ACEDAC to implement the Roadmap.

2. Outcomes of the ASEAN Learning Series on Quality Management along the Value Chain, 29 – 31 May 2018, Bangkok

ASEAN Foundation presented the outcomes of the ASEAN Learning Series on Quality Management along the Value Chain, which was conducted on 29 – 31 May 2018, in Bangkok, Thailand. The event was supported by AFOSP and was aimed to promote and strengthen cooperatives and farmer organizations to better integrate small producers into the value chain.

DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The Meeting noted that the 21st Meeting of the ASWGAC tentatively would be held back to back with the 26th ACEDAC Board Meeting in May/June 2019, prior to SOM-AMAF Meeting, in Myanmar. The exact date and venue of the Meeting will be informed to AMS in due course through the ASEAN Secretariat.

The Meeting was held in the traditional spirit of ASEAN cooperation and cordiality.