

**THE TWELFTH ASEAN AND CHINA TRANSPORT MINISTERS MEETING
(12th ATM+CHINA)**

19 December 2013, Pakse City, Champasak Province, Lao PDR

JOINT MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

1. The Twelfth ASEAN and China Transport Ministers Meeting (ATM+China) was held on 19 December 2013 in Pakse City, Champasak Province, Lao PDR. The Meeting was co-chaired by H.E. Mr. Sommad Pholsena, Minister of Public Works and Transport of Lao PDR and, H.E. Mr. Yang Chuantang, Minister of Transport of the People's Republic of China. The Meeting was preceded by the Twelfth ASEAN and China Senior Transport Officials Meeting (12th STOM+China) held on 17 December 2013.
2. The Ministers welcomed the outcomes of 16th ASEAN-China Summit held on 9 October 2013 in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam, particularly the Leaders' commitment to further strengthen ASEAN-China Strategic Partnership; China's proposals to establish an ASEAN-China Port Cities Cooperation Network and utilise ASEAN-China Maritime Fund for maritime connectivity, search and rescue, disaster management and navigational safety.
3. The Ministers recalled their decisions during the ASEAN-China Transport Ministers' Special Meeting on Connectivity held on 2 September 2013 in Nanning, China to deepen transport connectivity to support the upgrading of ASEAN-China Free Trade Area and on-going negotiations for the "Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership", amongst others, including optimising existing working mechanism, establishing financing platform for infrastructure development, strengthening air and maritime connectivity.
4. The Ministers signed the Protocol 2 on the Fifth Freedom Traffic Rights of the ASEAN-China Air Transport Agreement to further facilitate business and leisure connectivity between ASEAN Member States and China by providing more opportunities for their airlines to fly to more cities in ASEAN and China.
5. The Ministers encouraged senior officials to build upon the ASEAN-China Maritime Consultation Mechanism to come up with technical and capacity building proposals for funding under the ASEAN-China Maritime Cooperation Fund to advance maritime transport cooperation between ASEAN and China.
6. The Ministers welcomed the progress made in the construction of the Singapore – Kunming Rail Link (SKRL) and encouraged senior officials to explore possible synergy in expediting the work on SKRL which will not only further enhance connectivity between ASEAN and China but also provide impetus to regional connectivity in ASEAN.
7. The Ministers commended the successful conclusion of the overall planning for the National Highway Network of Lao PDR and construction of the Houayxay-Chiang Khong Mekong Bridge which links Lao PDR and Thailand. The completion of this project signified the official inception of transport facilitation along the Kunming-Bangkok Highway which linked China, Lao PDR and Thailand.

8. The Ministers welcomed the successful conclusion of the following ASEAN-China transport meetings/events held in 2013:

- (a) The Second Working Group Meeting on the Implementation of the Strategic Plan for the ASEAN-China Transport Cooperation on Guilin, China held on 19-21 March 2013 in Guilin, China ;
- (b) The Seventh ASEAN-China Working Group Meeting on Regional Air Services Arrangements held on 20-22 November 2013 in Beijing, China;
- (c) The Ninth Meeting of ASEAN-China Maritime Consultation Mechanism held on 7-8 November 2013 in Shanghai, China; and
- (d) Workshop of Airworthiness Certification of MA60 Airplane in China on 9-18 December 2013 in Xi'an, China.

9. The Ministers also welcomed a series of projects/activities earmarked for implementation in 2014, among others:

- (a) Eighth ASEAN-China Working Group Meeting on Regional Air Services Arrangements;
- (b) Tenth Meeting of ASEAN-China Maritime Consultation Mechanism in Tianjin;
- (c) The Implementation of the Feasibility Study for Further Improvement of the Navigation Channel of Lancang-Mekong River;
- (d) China-ASEAN Joint Maritime Search and Rescue Table and Operational Exercises and hold a multilateral, multi-task joint maritime exercise during 2014 East Asia Summit;
- (e) Initiation of China-ASEAN Port Cities Cooperation Network;
- (f) Implementation of the Package of ASEAN-China Maritime Transport Studies;
- (g) Development study for the Inland Waterway Improvement project in Thailand and CLMV countries;
- (h) Workshops on Maritime Search and Rescue and Oil Spill Prevention in Qingdao; and
- (i) Scholarship for Master Programme in Dalian Maritime University.

10. The Thirteenth ASEAN and China Transport Ministers Meeting will be held in Myanmar in 2014.



LIST OF MINISTERS

- (a) H.E. Pehin Dato Abdullah Bakar, Minister of Communications of Brunei Darussalam;
- (b) H.E. Mr. Tram Iv Tek, Minister of Public Works and Transport of Cambodia;
- (c) H.E. Mr. Yang Chuantang, Minister of Transport of the People's Republic of China;
- (d) H.E. Mr. Bambang Susantono, Vice Minister for Transportation of Indonesia;
- (e) H.E. Mr. Sommad Pholsena, Minister of Public Works and Transport of Lao PDR;
- (f) H.E. Datuk Ab Aziz Bin Kaprawi, Deputy Minister of Transport of Malaysia;
- (g) H.E. Mr. Nyan Htun Aung, Union Minister for Transport of Myanmar;
- (h) H.E. Atty. Catherine Jennifer P. Gonzales, Undersecretary of Transportation and Communications of the Philippines;
- (i) H.E. Mr. Lui Tuck Yew, Minister of Transport of Singapore;
- (j) Mr. Teerapong Rodprasert, Deputy Permanent Secretary, representing H.E. Mr. Chadchart Sittipunt, Minister of Transport of Thailand;
- (k) H.E. Mr. Dinh La Thang, Minister of Transport of Viet Nam; and
- (l) H.E. Mr. Lim Hong Hin, Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN for ASEAN Economic Community.

