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**MEMORANDUM**

**FOR/TO :** The Assistant Secretary for Policy, Planning, and Foreign Assisted and Special Projects, and Concurrent Director, Forest Management Bureau

The Directors  
Climate Change Service  
Biodiversity Management Bureau  
Environmental Management Bureau  
Mines and Geosciences Bureau

**FROM :** The OIC Director  
Policy and Planning Service

**SUBJECT :** **REQUEST FOR COMMENTS/INPUTS ON THE ZERO DRAFT OF THE EAST ASIA SUMMIT PLAN OF ACTION 2023-2027**

**DATE :** **FEB 16 2022**

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This pertains to the letter from Asec. Daniel Espiritu requesting for inputs/comments on the Zero Draft of the East Asia Summit (EAS) Plan of Action (2023-2027), which will replace the current Manila Plan of Action to Advance the Phnom Penh Declaration on the East Asia Summit Development Initiative (2018-2022).

The Zero Draft touches on topics relevant to the DENR such as: biodiversity conservation, climate action, SDGs, smart cities, and natural disaster management, among others.

In view of this, we are respectfully requesting for your inputs/comments, if any, on the Zero Draft on or before 1 March 2022 for our consolidation. In the absence of any feedback from your office by the aforementioned deadline, please allow us to assume that the Zero Draft is acceptable to your office.

For your information and appropriate action, please.

  
GLENN MARCELO C. NOBLE



DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
KAGAWARAN NG UGNAYANG PANLABAS

OFFICE OF ASEAN AFFAIRS

Our Ref. No. : DIV1-059-ASEAN-2022  
Subject : Zero Draft of the East Asia Summit (EAS) Plan of Action (2023-2027)  
Date : 14 February 2022

Dear Sirs/Mesdames,

The Department forwards the attached Zero Draft of the East Asia Summit (EAS) Plan of Action (2023-2027), as circulated by Cambodia, the ASEAN and EAS Chair for this year. The new Plan of Action will replace the current Manila Plan of Action to Advance the Phnom Penh Declaration on the East Asia Summit Development Initiative (2018-2022).

The Zero Draft, which carries large sections from the current Plan of Action, incorporates most Philippine initiatives such as biodiversity, Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET), labor, among others, and several sections were updated to accommodate cooperation in addressing the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly a substantially longer Economic Cooperation Section.

In view of the foregoing, the Department respectfully requests your Offices' inputs and comments on the Zero Draft. Kindly provide a backgrounder and/or rationale on your Offices' inputs and comments, which would be used as reference by the Philippine Permanent Mission to ASEAN in Jakarta during the negotiations on the document by the Committee of Permanent Representatives to ASEAN (CPR) and non-ASEAN EAS participating countries.

We would appreciate receiving your inputs and comments, with advance editable copy sent to [asean.div1@dfa.gov.ph](mailto:asean.div1@dfa.gov.ph) and [asean@dfa.gov.ph](mailto:asean@dfa.gov.ph), **on or before 4 March 2022, Friday**. In the absence of feedback by the said date, please allow us to assume that your Office is amenable to the draft Plan of Action.

Thank you for your usual support and cooperation on matters of mutual concern.

Very truly yours,  
For the Secretary of Foreign Affairs:

**DANIEL R. ESPIRITU**  
Assistant Secretary

**ALL AMTB AGENCIES.**

*Attachment: as stated.*

## **The East Asia Summit (EAS) Plan of Action (2023-2027)**

This Plan of Action (POA) is intended to ensure practical coordination, cooperation and implementation of the East Asia Summit (EAS) Leaders' decisions and proposals consistent with the principles of the 2005 Kuala Lumpur Declaration on the East Asia Summit, the Leaders' agreed priority areas of cooperation at the 2<sup>nd</sup> East Asia Summit in Cebu, Philippines in 2007, the 2011 Declaration of the 6<sup>th</sup> East Asia Summit on ASEAN Connectivity in Bali, Indonesia, the 2012 Phnom Penh Declaration on the EAS Development Initiative, the 2015 Kuala Lumpur Declaration on the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the EAS and the 2020 Ha Noi Declaration on the 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the East Asia Summit.

This POA replaces the Manila Plan of Action to Advance the Phnom Penh Declaration on the East Asia Summit Development Initiative (2018-2022).

The EAS will continue to be a Leaders'-led forum for dialogue on broad strategic, political, and economic issues of common interest and concern with the aim of promoting peace, stability and economic prosperity in East Asia. The EAS will continue to pursue areas of cooperation as identified by Leaders and Ministers that include, but are not limited to, the following: environment and energy, education, finance, global health issues and pandemic diseases, natural disaster management, ASEAN connectivity, economic and trade, food security and agriculture, and maritime cooperation.

Given that the EAS is an integral component of the evolving regional architecture with ASEAN as a driving force, the EAS will continue these discussions among EAS Ambassadors in Jakarta with optional participation of similarly-ranked officials from capitals as noted in the 12<sup>th</sup> EAS Chairman's Statement.

The following cooperation in EAS streams of work will be undertaken in conformity with the EAS participating countries' obligations under international law and in accordance with their respective domestic laws, regulations and policies:

### **1. ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY COOPERATION**

1.1. Work toward further mainstreaming sustainable development, promoting balanced, inclusive and sustainable approaches:

1.1.1 Develop initiatives linked to the implementation of regionally relevant outcomes, building on existing ASEAN programmes,

- 1.5.1 Encouraging the active role of the Biofuels for Transport and Other Purposes Work Stream and the Renewable and Alternative Power Generation Work Stream;
- 1.5.2 Continuing to support East Asia Energy Forum and the EAS Clean Energy Forum;
- 1.5.3 Encouraging interested EAS participating countries to consider supporting, where applicable and on a voluntary basis, the work of the International Solar Alliance, among others;
- 1.6. Stimulate discourse analysing the barriers to renewable energy policies and of investment in renewable energy and energy efficient technologies:
  - 1.6.1 Promote dialogue on reform of fuel subsidies which encourage wasteful consumption, while recognising the importance of affordability and providing those in need with essential energy services;
  - 1.6.2 Encourage renewable energy investments and balanced financing in sustainable energy and the renewable energy sector;
  - 1.6.3 Encourage the development and deployment of innovative, scalable, and efficient technologies to advance pathways towards energy security while pursuing energy transition and decarbonisation;
- 1.7. Promote deployment of advanced technologies on energy efficiency and conservation:
  - 1.7.1 Encourage the active role of the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Work Stream, including the role of clean and efficient energy in supporting the research study on smart and eco-friendly cities by ERIA;
- 1.8. Enhance research and cooperation on sustainable urban development and smart solutions as well as raise the environmental awareness of the general public:

and contributing to the implementation of the ASEAN Regional Action Plan on Combating Marine Debris in ASEAN Member States;

## **2. EDUCATION COOPERATION**

- 2.1. Increase communication and dialogue in educational policies through the EAS Education Ministers' Meeting and other mechanisms;
- 2.2. Advance cooperation in ensuring inclusive and life-long skills development and digital literacy, and foster long-term and mutually beneficial educational cooperation through alignment of the related action lines under the EAS' Plan of Action and future EAS Cooperation on Education and ensuring its complementarity with the ASEAN Work Plan on Education 2021-2025;
- 2.3. Implement relevant programmes/projects/activities with an emphasis on inclusive, quality primary, secondary and higher education, including technical and vocational education and training (TVET);
- 2.4. Explore collaboration with the ASEAN Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Council in complementing the initiatives of EAS countries in TVET with the ASEAN TVET Council Work Plan 2021-2030;
- 2.5. Develop and promote school programmes in history, culture, geography, languages and social studies to enhance mutual understanding among EAS participating countries;
- 2.6. Encourage the exchange of education materials, where appropriate and on a voluntary basis;
- 2.7. Promote student, youth and people-to-people exchanges among EAS participating countries through such means as the continued conduct of study and scholarship programmes;
- 2.8. Encourage the ASEAN-India Network of Universities with universities of EAS participating countries to promote academic cooperation and research;
- 2.9. Strengthen competency of teachers and educators in ICT and 21<sup>st</sup> Century skills and encourage promotion of a life-long learning society;

#### **4. COOPERATION ON GLOBAL HEALTH ISSUES AND PANDEMIC DISEASES**

4.1. Enhance regional preparedness and capacity through comprehensive and integrated approaches to (i) prevention; (ii) control; (iii) care; (iv) management; (v) surveillance; and (vi) timely response to threats of communicable diseases such as HIV and AIDS, dengue, tuberculosis; and threats of emerging and reemerging infectious diseases such as, drug-resistant malaria, COVID-19, and other diseases with pandemic potential. Specific relevant activities may include, but are not limited to the following:

4.1.1 Support the implementation of the Declaration of the EAS on Regional Responses to Malaria Control, and Addressing Resistance to Antimalarial Medicine;

4.1.2 Support the work of the Asia-Pacific Leaders Malaria Alliance (APLMA) to enhance East Asia cooperation in dealing with malaria issues in the region through Leaders-led dialogue;

4.1.3 Support the full implementation of the International Health Regulations across all EAS participating countries to strengthen health security in the region, including to improve public health emergency preparedness and response;

4.1.4 Support the enhancement of efforts in preventing and combating emerging infectious diseases building on existing ASEAN-led platforms and mechanisms, as appropriate;

4.1.5 Support the operationalization of the ASEAN Centre for Public Health Emergency and Emerging Diseases (ACPHEED) and the ASEAN Public Health Emergency Coordination System;

4.1.6 Promote collaborative research and development on relevant health intervention and technologies for the prevention, treatment, care, and management of emerging infectious and communicable diseases;

4.1.7 Support the implementation of the One Health Approach across all EAS participating countries to strengthen prevention, detection and response capacities to efficiently address the

- 4.3. Strengthen regional cooperation to enhance access to affordable and essential healthcare services, and safe, high-quality and affordable medicines, as well as to promote a healthy lifestyle;
- 4.4. Enhance capacity building of EAS participating countries in the area of public health which may include, but is not limited to the following:
  - 4.4.1 Improve management of human resources for health and conduct training courses for public health workers;
  - 4.4.2 Explore ways to promote regional cooperation in enhancing national health system response and resilience to all hazards such as natural disasters, pandemics or emerging infectious diseases, which may include among others emergency and disaster medicines;
  - 4.4.3 Provide timely notification to WHO of events that may constitute a public health emergency of international concern, as required by the International Health Regulations, and to early sharing of surveillance data so as to limit the loss of life and economic damage;
  - 4.4.4 Strengthen cooperation in responding to the threats on the spread of communicable diseases through discussions among public health senior officials of the EAS participating countries and consider the possibility of organising regular meetings of heads of services responsible for combating infectious diseases;
- 4.5. Promote sharing of best practices and information exchange on health-related technologies;
- 4.6. Improve the health status of the people of the region towards achieving the targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

## **5. COOPERATION ON NATURAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT**

5.6. Conduct capacity-building, exchange of experiences, and practices in disaster management;

5.6.1 Conduct capacity-building activities on disaster risk reduction and response, including preparedness reporting in accordance with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction;

5.6.2 Continue to support ASEAN-led exchanges of information and best practices at regular forums, such as the ASEAN Strategic Policy Dialogue on Disaster Management (SPDDM);

## **6. COOPERATION ON ASEAN CONNECTIVITY**

6.1. Support the implementation of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) 2025 and its successor, and encourage EAS participating countries to provide funding and technical support to strengthen the region's competitiveness and resilience through:

6.1.1 Enhance connectivity across the five strategic areas of the MPAC 2025, namely sustainable infrastructure, digital innovation, seamless logistics, regulatory excellence, and people mobility, as well as the potential focus areas of its successor;

6.1.2 Enhance sustainable infrastructure development and cooperation in ASEAN that ensure, economic efficiency and resilience, including through support to the Initial Rolling Priority Pipeline of ASEAN Infrastructure Projects, future infrastructure priorities, as well as smart and sustainable urbanisation projects and capacity building activities;

6.1.3 Foster greater engagement between the ASEAN Coordinating Committee on Connectivity (ACCC) and non-ASEAN EAS participating countries;

6.1.4 Further support the efforts to enhance cooperation amongst various connectivity strategies in the region in the development of sustainable, quality, and resilient regional connectivity initiatives and synergizing common priorities identified in the MPAC 2025 and its successor in line with the ASEAN Connecting the Connectivities Approach;



- 7.3. Increase dialogue and collaboration on common economic challenges facing EAS participating countries to further strengthen regional economic integration and narrow the development gap in the region;
- 7.4. Reaffirm the commitment to free, fair, transparent, rules-based, predictable, non-discriminatory, and stable multilateral trading system centered on the World Trade Organization (WTO), while also recognising the clear need to reform the WTO to improve its functioning;
- 7.5. Enhance the engagement with ERIA on key emerging issues that are relevant to regional economic integration, including, but not limited to, and supply chain resilience, sustainable economy, energy transition and digital trade;
- 7.6. Exchange views on strategies, programmes and frameworks that would enhance understanding on, and support, sustainable growth;
- 7.7. Support ASEAN's post-pandemic recovery efforts through the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework (ACRF) and its Implementation Plan;
- 7.8. Strengthen policy dialogues to support digital transformation in the areas of regulatory reform, technology and innovation, human resource development, micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) and cybersecurity as well as explore cooperation to support ASEAN in the implementation of regional digital initiatives, including the Bandar Seri Begawan Roadmap: an ASEAN Digital Transformation Agenda to Accelerate ASEAN's Economic Recovery and Digital Economic Integration (BSBR), the ASEAN Digital Master Plan 2025, the Work Plan on the implementation of the ASEAN Agreement on Ecommerce, among others;
- 7.9. Promote and strengthen further cooperation in e-commerce, trade and digital economy recognising the importance of sustainable, inclusive and resilient growth;
- 7.10. Support the ASEAN Smart Cities Network (ASCN) to achieve smart and sustainable urban development through forging partnerships and collaborations with ASCN and implementing the Smart City Action Plans (SCAPs);

- 9.5 Promote economic development cooperation and sustainable marine resources management, through encouraging maritime and marine investment, sustainable marine-tourism; and marine and fisheries industry development including port and logistics management, and safe and environmentally-sound ship building, ship repairing and ship breaking;
- 9.6 Ensure that all countries enjoy and exercise freedom of navigation and overflight in accordance with international law, as reflected in the 1982 UNCLOS;
- 9.7 Promote maritime security and safety through dialogue and cooperation in accordance with the relevant international legal instruments and guidelines;
- 9.8 Promote maritime security and safety through confidence building and preventive measures, such as promoting international efforts in the fight against piracy on the high seas and armed robbery against ships, and strengthening by the involved countries of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA), North Pacific Coast Guard Forum (NPCGF), Western Pacific Naval Symposium (WPNS), Head of Asian Coast Guard Agency Meeting (HACGAM), Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) Exercise, and Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia (ReCAAP);
- 9.9 Prevent and manage accidents and incidents at sea by, among others, developing the region's capacity to conduct Search and Rescue operations for people and vessels in distress at sea; enhancing hotline communications between relevant focal points, in consultation with the relevant Search and Rescue Authorities, national maritime agencies and authorities; enhancing coordination through the establishment of contact groups, sharing of information and sharing of best practice, dialogue and joint exercises on maritime safety, including Search and Rescue as appropriate; in accordance with current established IMO conventions;
- 9.10 Promote confidence building measures and enhancing cooperation to promote peace, stability and regional security by convening regional maritime workshops and exercises that promote practical cooperation, transparency and common understanding of the rule of law at sea, including through enhancing synergy with other relevant ASEAN-led

## **INSTITUTIONAL AND FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS PLAN OF ACTION**

The initiatives mentioned in this Plan of Action will be implemented through existing regional frameworks and mechanisms of ASEAN, in close consultation with and support from EAS participating countries, and with appropriate support and from relevant regional and international organisations, including Asian Development Bank (ADB), United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), World Bank, and Economic Research Institute of ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA).

The relevant EAS ministerial meetings and senior officials' meetings are in-charge of reviewing their respective work streams and assessing the progress at regular intervals.

Submit progress reports on the implementation of the Plan of Action to the annual EAS Foreign Ministers' Meeting.

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