

**Joint Media Statement of the ASEAN Community Statistical System (ACSS)  
Committee First Session,  
Jakarta, 2-3 November 2011**

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**Introduction**

1. We, the ASEAN heads of statistical offices and members of the ASEAN Community Statistical System (ACSS) Committee, convened our first session in Jakarta, Indonesia on 2-3 November 2011 with a clearer mandate to define ASEAN statistical priorities and promote wider use of regional statistics, promote improvement of statistical infrastructure, facilitate human resource and institutional capacity building and to enhance institutional linkages with international statistical bodies.
2. Their Excellencies S. Pushpanathan, Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN for ASEAN Economic Community and Mr. Jan-Willem Blankert, EU Special Adviser for ASEAN, welcomed the participants and delivered the keynote messages.
3. Dr. Suryamin, First Secretary, BPS-Statistics Indonesia, presided over our Meeting.

**Institutional Strengthening**

1. Immediately following the endorsement of its Terms of Reference by the ASEAN Economic Ministers (AEM) at its 43rd Meeting in August 2011, the ACSS Committee set to strengthen its institutional framework, governance, and decision-making process. We approved the establishment of the Planning and Coordination Sub-Committee of the ACSS Committee and the adoption of the Rules of Procedure. These are prerequisites for the effective functioning of the ACSS Committee.
2. In support of the monitoring and implementation of the ASEAN Roadmap on the Attainment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG), we have worked to establish a sustainable mechanism of updating MDG data in close cooperation with the Member States' national MDG focal point and national statistical system. We look forward to issuing the First ASEAN Statistical Report on MDG Indicators by December of this year.
3. Taking a more strategic perspective, we adopted the Multi-Year Action Plan in addition to the Annual Work Plan of the ACSS Committee including their planning cycle. This would allow the Member States to incorporate the regional priority in the planning and budgeting of their statistical activities. We stand committed to implement the Annual Work Plan 2012 and 2013.

**Strengthening ASEAN Statistics**

4. We recognised the ASEAN Statistical Indicators (ASI) as a statistical framework and a

coordination mechanism in the development and harmonisation of ASEAN statistics. ASI covers a wide range of indicators and sub-domain of statistics that ensures the relevance of the outputs of the ACSS Committee with the ASEAN initiatives. At the same time, it lends support to the global and regional initiatives on the improvement of social and economic statistics.

5. We will continue to progress in the harmonisation of key economic statistics such as those on international merchandise trade, international trade in services, foreign direct investments, and manufacturing.

6. We recognised the importance of better communication of ASEAN statistics to our stakeholders.

### **Capacity Building and Strengthening Partnership**

7. We are encouraged by the increasing interest of our development partners, relevant international organisations and dialogue partner countries in strengthening statistical cooperation and promoting capacity building.

8. We are confident that we can expedite the establishment of the ASEAN Community Statistical System by 2015. ASEAN Member States are committed to the implementation of the ASEAN Framework of Cooperation in Statistics. We appreciate our strong partnership with development partners, relevant international organisations and dialogue partner countries.

9. We acknowledge in particular, the support of the EU-ASEAN Statistical Capacity Building (EASCAB) Programme in the strengthening of institutional framework and statistical capacity in a number of fields of statistics.

### **Hosting of the Meeting**

10. We express our deep appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Indonesia, through the BPS-Statistics Indonesia, for the excellent leadership, meeting arrangements and facilitation, as well as for the warm hospitality accorded to us during the ACSS Committee First Session.

11. We acknowledge with appreciation the confirmation of the National Institute of Statistics Cambodia to host the ACSS Committee Second Session in Siem Reap, Cambodia, in September 2012.

Jakarta, Indonesia, 3 November 2011