JOINT MEDIA STATEMENT

The Fifteenth Session of
the ASEAN Community Statistical System Committee (ACSS15)
3-5 November 2025, Melaka, Malaysia

1. The Fifteenth Session of the ASEAN Community Statistical System Committee (ACSS15), hosted by Department of Statistics Malaysia, was held on 3 to 5 November 2025. The Session was chaired by YBhg. Dato Sri Dr. Mohd Uzir Mahidin, Chief Statistician of Department of Statistics Malaysia, with Ms. Minerva Eloisa P. Esquivias, Deputy National Statistician of Philippine Statistics Authority as the Co-chairperson.

2. Since its establishment in 2011, the ACSS has become an important pillar of ASEAN's work. By strengthening coordination and improving institutional capacities, it has allowed us to expand the scope and quality of ASEAN statistics, publish information more regularly, and ensure that our policy discussions are grounded in evidence. It has also given ASEAN the ability to respond to new and emerging global challenges.

3. With the support of the Sub-Committee on Planning and Coordination (SCPC) and the technical working groups, ACSS has been continuously improving data provision in economic and social statistics as well as Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) indicators. Statistical data and products disseminated via the ASEAN Statistics (ASEANstats) website have also been continuously enhanced.

4. Despite achieving significant improvements at the national and regional levels, the ACSS needs to strengthen the collaborative efforts of AMS to face the existing challenges including statistical capacity gap among AMS and limited national and regional resources. Improving coordination among national data producing agencies and enhancing the utilisation of alternative data sources are also crucial to respond to emerging data needs.

5. Aligned with the overall theme of Malaysia's ASEAN Chairmanship in 2025 of "Inclusivity and Sustainability", and as part of our continuous commitment to further enhance regional statistical cooperation and respond proactively to emerging statistical requirements, we adopted the following theme for 2025 ACSS work programme:

"Advancing ASEAN Through Inclusive Data and Innovation"

Key Deliverables of the ACSS Work Programme 2025

6. In meeting the increasing data needs for supporting the monitoring of ASEAN integration, we continued our work programmes aimed at providing relevant, timely and comparable statistics on SDG indicators, national accounts, foreign direct investment, international merchandise trade, and international trade in services, as well as other economic and social indicators.

7. We developed the ASEAN SDG Indicators Progress Report 2025 as part of our efforts in enhancing data provision to the users for enriching their analysis, and providing information on whether the region is on track to achieve the SDGs targets in 2030.

8. We developed the Concept Note on ASEAN Data Governance Framework that presents a strategic vision for Inclusive Data Governance for a Sustainable ASEAN that aligns with global best practices and reflects regional priorities by fostering trust, coherence and innovation in data management. The expected outcomes of this initiative are foundational ASEAN data governance concept, strengthened AMS data governance policies aligned to global good practice, enhanced collaboration with NSOs/international organisations, and coherent integration of national efforts into a regional framework.

9. We conducted the awareness initiative to promote the importance of statistics for national and regional development, strengthen visibility of ACSS through national and regional outreach, and enhance trust and literacy on statistics among policymakers, stakeholders and the public.

10. We developed Proof of Concept (PoC) for the ASEAN Statistics Virtual Academy and agreed to conduct pilot implementation of at least one training program for each Working Group in 2026, paving the way for the full launch of the Virtual Academy in 2027. The ASEAN Statistics Virtual Academy aims to enhance the sustainability, effectiveness, and efficiency of ACSS capacity building programs, while addressing knowledge management and knowledge transferability challenges.

ACSS Action Plan 2026-2030

11. We endorsed the ACSS Action Plan 2026-2030 along with its key performance indicators and the multi-year plans of each ACSS working group by considering their alignment with the priorities of ASEAN Community Vision 2045 and post-2025 Agenda as well as the global statistical development.

12. We noted the list of Key Outcome Indicators (KOIs) of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) Strategic Plan 2026-2030, and we are committed to enhance our efforts in support of the provision of relevant data. We also acknowledged that the relevant KOIs have been consulted with all ACSS Working Groups to reflect the needs, identify currently available indicators, assess potential availability in the future, and discuss possible follow-up actions.

13. We agreed to establish task forces on extended/satellite accounts to enhance the development of national accounts as part of efforts in supporting the monitoring of ASEAN initiatives on emerging issues, particularly those related to digitalization, blue economy, creative economy and contribution of tourism.

Advancing ASEAN Through Inclusive Data and Innovation

14. We commended AMS' strategies in enhancing public engagement and statistical literacy to foster trust in official statistics and AMS' efforts in empowering ASEAN with disaggregated and open data for inclusive policy:

i. Brunei Darussalam's (1) promotion of statistical literacy in educational institutions; (2) improvement of data access through interactive dashboards, official websites and social media platforms; (3) enhanced engagement between data producers and users to cultivate a data-driven culture through awareness initiatives; (4) celebration of National Statistics Day in support of Brunei's Wawasan 2035 through quality and reliable statistics; (5) collaboration with universities to promote the use of official data in academic research; (6) supports to open data while protecting privacy and confidentiality under the Statistics Act.

ii. Cambodia's (1) Labor Force Survey 2025; (2) Agriculture Survey 2025; (3) Socio-Economic Survey 2025/26; (4) Demographic and Health Survey 2025/26; (5) Develop NSDS 2025-2028; (6) preparation of national accounts base year 2024 and GDP quarterly compilation; (7) upgrade on CAMSTAT Data Platform; (8) formulation of national data sharing policy for integrated official statistical system; and (9) strengthened administrative data utilization through develop a standardize data sharing template for improved availability, timeliness and statistical coordination.

iii. Indonesia's (1) collaboration with 169 universities to establish Pojok Statistik; (2) implementation of "Desa Cinta Statistik" program at 2,422 villages to improve data-based decision-making at village level; (3) BPS Goes to School program to build statistical awareness among students; (4) Celebration of National Statistics Day involving data users and stakeholders; (5) Data Needs Survey to identify user needs for more relevant data; (6) implementation of One Data Indonesia to promote data standardization and interoperability across agencies.

iv. Lao PDR's (1) 5th Population and Housing Census (PHC 2025), using digital platforms and standardized questionnaires for data collection, including GIS technology; (2) launch of key statistical products, including the 7th Lao Expenditure and Consumption Survey (LECS7), the Household Solid Waste Management Survey, the Poverty Profile of the Lao PDR, and the Gender Statistics Book; (3) strengthened institutional capacity following the re-organization by enhancing capacity building, collaboration, and modernizing systems to support sustainable statistical development.

v. Malaysia's (1) rank top in the Open Data Inventory (ODIN) 2024/25, reaffirming commitment for data transparency; (2) launch of the Malaysia Labour Market Data Hub; (3) release of the Agriculture Census 2024 Interim Report at 14 state levels, Household and Income Expenditure Survey 2024 Report and Oil and Gas Services and Equipment Indicators 2025; (4) introduction of AI innovations such as KAYRA-GPT and TaniStats to modernise data dissemination; and (5) celebration of Statistics Day 2025 through nationwide and community initiatives promoting data literacy and engagement.

vi. Myanmar's (1) preparation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) progress report; (2) provision of policy suggestions based on surveys about disasters and child labor; (3) conduct of the Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME) surveys in 2024 and 2025 for SME development; (4) survey coordination and statistical standard cluster; (5) sharing of statistical knowledge with senior officials from different ministries at Civil Service Academies; and (6) enhanced statistical knowledge and capacity through paper reading sessions in celebration of World Statistics Day 2025.

vii. The Philippines's 1) 16th National Convention on Statistics, 36th National Statistics Month, 4th World Statistics Day, and National and Regional Community-Based Monitoring System Convention and Data Festival; 2) statistical capacity strengthening of national and local government personnel through PSA's TUKLAS, a digital learning platform; 3) issuance of the Implementing Rules and Regulations of the Philippine Ecosystem and Natural Capital Accounting System Act; and 4) data sharing agreements with other government offices to enable data-driven governance.

viii. Singapore's (1) release of new and more granular data, including the 2024-based Consumer Price Index, Services Trade by Enterprise Characteristics, and Trade in Services by Trading Partner and Category; (2) launch of Artificial Intelligence (AI) chatbot SANDRA which leverages semantic search and Large Language Model to enhance data accessibility, and use of AI and Machine Learning (ML) to extract unstructured financial data for business statistics compilation; and (3) expanded use of administrative records and AI/ML web-scraped data to reduce respondent burden and improve data compilation efficiency.

ix. Thailand's 1) development of the Government Data Catalog to promote inclusive access and support digital government; 2) organization of the NSO Data Camp to engage youth nationwide, enhance statistical literacy, and make data relevant to all; 3) conduct of the 2025 Population and Housing Census, the nation's first digital census to ensure comprehensive coverage; and 4) establishment of the NSO Digital Frame by integrating data from the 2025 Population and Housing Census, the 2023 Agricultural Census, and the 2022 Business and Industry Census to create a comprehensive spatial database.

x. Timor-Leste's 1) path to full ASEAN membership marks a new era of regional collaboration; 2) development of a modern National Statistical System (NSS) to align with ASEAN and global data standards; 3) efforts in improving data collection to support inclusive and sustainable development; 4) collaboration across ministries, academia, and civil society to strengthen evidence-based decision-making; 5) utilisation of open-source tools and regional partnerships for capacity building and system interoperability; 6) integrated AI-driven tools to strengthen data analysis, forecasting, and evidence-based policymaking.

xi. Viet Nam's (1) implementation of a new operating model with the 3-level structure towards streamlining and greater efficiency in statistical activities; (2) application of IT in Censuses, such as machine learning, AI, GPS to support data collection and maximize the use of administrative data; (3) promotion of data connectivity and exchange with relevant ministries to explore and compile data meeting diverse needs of users, including ASEAN; (4) organization of World Statistics Day and High-level Forum attracting a great number of ministries, international organizations and mass media.

Appreciation for Development Partners and International Organisations

15. We appreciated the contribution of the Norway Statistics (SSB), UK Office for National Statistics (ONS), Enhanced Regional EU-ASEAN Dialogue Instrument (E-READI) and National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) China for providing support for ACSS capacity building in strengthening institutional framework and coordination, improving the availability and comparability of keystatistics for ASEAN regional integration monitoring, and narrowing the gaps in statistical capacity among AMS.

16. We thanked the International Organisations, namely the Asian Development Bank (ADB), United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), International Labour Organization (ILO) and International Monetary Fund (IMF). We acknowledged with appreciation their support towards the goal of a more responsive ACSS, providing high quality statistics in support of the ASEAN integration.

Handover of the ACSS Chairmanship

17. We expressed our sincere gratitude to the Government of Malaysia, through Department of Statistics Malaysia, for its excellent chairmanship, good preparation, and impeccable arrangements for the fifteenth Session of the ACSS Committee.

18. We welcomed the ACSS Chairship of the Philippines in 2026.

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ASEAN Community Statistical System (ACSS) Committee

1. BRUNEI DARUSSALAM: **Mr. Bahrum Kadun**
2. KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA: **Mr. Sok Phal**
3. REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA: **Mr. Windhiarso Ponco Adi Putranto**
4. LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC: **Mr. Fongsamout Khamvalvongsa**
5. MALAYSIA: **Dr. Mohd Uzir Mahidin**
6. THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR: **Mr. Htun Zaw**
7. REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES: **Ms. Minerva Eloisa Esquivias**
8. REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE: **Ms. Priyadharshini Navaratnam**
9. KINGDOM OF THAILAND: **Ms. Hataichanok Chinauparwat**
10. DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF TIMOR-LESTE: **Mr. Elias dos Santos Ferreira**
11. THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM: **Mr. Le Trung Hieu**
12. ASEAN SECRETARIAT: **Dr. Ahmad Zafarullah Abdul Jalil**

5 November 2025