



## **ASEAN UNIVERSITY NETWORK**

### **Joint Statement of the 1<sup>st</sup> ASEAN+3 Youth Summit 2011 “Strengthening ASEAN+3 Higher Education through Community Engagement” Kanchanaburi, Thailand**

#### **I. Introduction**

1. We, the students of the ASEAN University Network (AUN) Member Universities and the Plus Three Countries, gathered on 7 May 2011 at Mahidol University, Kanchanaburi Campus, Thailand on the occasion of the 12<sup>th</sup> AUN Educational Forum and Young Speakers Contest.
2. We reaffirmed the importance of solidarity and unity in diversity, acknowledged that ASEAN+3 Member States share common interests and goals, and called for harmony among ASEAN+3 Member States.
3. We noted the efforts in accelerating the establishment of ASEAN+3 Higher Education Cooperation, therefore it is fitting that we are committed to the undertaking of and strengthening for ASEAN+3 Higher Education through Community Engagement.
4. We encouraged the awareness and actions on the part of ASEAN+3 Member States to promote sustainable higher education cooperation. We called on ASEAN+3 Member States to make this a priority.
5. We recognised the unique promise and contribution of youths – who have propensity to take initiative and be open-minded, tolerant, active, dynamic, and optimistic – to the ASEAN+3 Community. In this context, we commit to a significant and pro-active role in the promotion of the ASEAN+3 Community Building in accordance with the ASEAN Plus Three Plan of Action on Education: 2010-2017.

#### **II. The importance of Community Engagement towards the Strengthening of ASEAN+3 Higher Education**

##### ***A. The actions youth can undertake to strengthen ASEAN+3 Higher Education through Community Engagement***

1. Foster youth friendship across borders to strengthen cultural understanding and social awareness among the youth of ASEAN+3;
2. Promote the dissemination of information in relevant to the community service activities; and

3. Establish student unions/associations/communities among ASEAN+3 youths to build friendship and linkages as well as implement youth community service's programmes including, but not limited to, budget cultural exchange programme and communication media toward youths and students.

***B. Recommendations of youth for ASEAN+3 Universities in strengthening Higher Education through Community Engagement***

In order to strengthen higher education through community engagement, the youth of the ASEAN+3 propose the following recommendations:

1. Establish university-based and integrated ASEAN+3 community volunteer programme and internship, adding practical work as the element of learning by encouraging students to participate in community services and voluntary programmes through various societal activities to achieve sustainable community development;
2. Promote the creation of East Asian regional awareness programmes within individual country both curricula and extra curricula by the creation of ASEAN+3 Summit simulation and other relevant programmes;
3. Accelerate and promote active learning of other cultures, histories, and languages through student mobility programmes such as ASEAN Studies and East Asian Studies Programme, short-courses study abroad programme, summer school, regional seminar, field trips, and inter-regional cooperation with other regional bodies of education;
4. Encourage ASEAN+3 universities to form 'the regional history study group' which consists of scholar from each country to study the different historical perspective taking into account that 'the regional history study group' will be the seed of common understanding of regional identity and solidarity;
5. Encourage the collaborations between higher education and non-education sectors such as, but not limited to, NGOs, INGOs, business fields, and local scientific institutes for an alternative learning to be able to encourage state-civic societal partnerships and also for fund-raising activities;
6. Raise awareness on an importance of innovative technology to promote creativity of the students and to increase quality education accessibility;
7. Partake in collaborative research by bolstering and accommodating necessary equipment and funds in order to encourage knowledge exchange and technology transfer between ASEAN and the Plus Three Countries;
8. Establish joint programmes between ASEAN and the Plus Three Countries in the area of development studies which focus on creativity, innovations and enterprise;

9. Promote the campus life development to idealise individual moral character; and
10. Create a working committee to provide recommendations to ASEAN+3 governments for policy formulation regarding community engagement.

***C. Recommendations of youth for ASEAN+3 Heads of State/ Government regarding policy making in strengthening Higher Education through Community Engagement***

In order to strengthen higher education through community engagement, the youth of ASEAN+3 call on ASEAN+3 Member States to:

1. Support the establishment of community engagement and capacity building within higher education institutions;
2. Provide funds and professional assistance for activities and researches that involve the community engagement;
3. Promote cross-border exchange scholarships and increase scholarship opportunity among ASEAN+3 countries for students who are academically capable and willing to pursue higher education but financially unable to do so;
4. Initiate policy reforms to achieve excellence in higher education system as well as to provide opportunities and equal access to education for local ethnic and racial groups;
5. Encourage ASEAN+3 higher education institutions to include community services into curricula to cultivate social awareness and life learning skills;
6. Encourage the establishment of, and intensify the existing quality assurance (QA) system for local higher education institutions to achieve national and international recognitions;
7. Foster effective stakeholders contribution at all levels to the development and implementation of national policies and programmes related to social responsibility and community engagement;
8. Strengthen community building by incorporating the utilisation of information technology and ICT in remote areas;
9. Request the delivery of the well-planned strategic mechanisms to create more cohesion among the integral parts of education ranging from the national level, educational service area level and the individual institution level, in order to narrow the gap between institutions within countries; and
10. Contribute to the ASEAN+3 community building by adhering to the value of lifelong learning which emphasises the importance of shared experiences and knowledge, and;
11. Integrate ASEAN+3 Youth Engagement programme as official programme conducted by the government to further internalise the sense of belonging for East Asian Community.

### **III. Closing**

The realisation of this Joint Statement will be accomplished through enhanced cooperation among the network of the ASEAN+3 students and relevant stakeholders. This Joint Statement will be submitted to the Senior Officials Meeting on Youth (SOMY) through the ASEAN Secretariat.

**Adopted** in Kanchanaburi, Thailand this Seventh Day of May in the Year Two Thousand and Eleven.

Acknowledged by:

The student participants of the 12<sup>th</sup> AUN Educational Forum and Young Speakers Contest