



ASEAN University Network

Joint Statement of the 3rd ASEAN + 3 Youth Summit 2013

“Roles of Future Leaders in Overcoming Connectivity Problems for Economic Growth”

Institut Teknologi Bandung, Bandung, Indonesia

3-8 June 2013

I. Introduction

1. We, the students of the ASEAN University Network (AUN) Member Universities and the Plus Three countries, gathered on the 8th of June year 2013 at Institut Teknologi Bandung, Indonesia on the occasion of the 14th AUN Educational Forum and Young Speakers Contest;
2. We acknowledge with conviction that ensuring connectivity in the region is very essential in the development of each country in terms of economic, social and political. However, we also recognize that the way to connectivity is not very easy for the region because of the underlying problems the region faces categorized as: Physical Connectivity, Institutional Connectivity and People-to-People Connectivity;
3. We noted with satisfaction the efforts of our governments, universities and other sectors in helping connecting the region in all possible ways;
4. We reaffirmed our roles as future leaders in the region in ensuring a conducive environment for collaboration and partnership that will eventually lead to a stronger and more connected region;
5. We believe that the problem of connectivity in our region can be solved and the way to do it is by renewing our commitment, flourishing our partnership and at the

same time harmonizing the understanding of each other despite of diversity and various differences. That together as one region, we can close the gaps that slow down the development of each country and the region as a whole.

II. Recognizing the problems of connectivity

1. We realize that misunderstanding, unwillingness to cooperate and lack of information are very significant reasons that lead to the gaps in the region. Asean+3 is a much diversified region, each has own distinct cultures, traditions, values, and beliefs, separating them from one another;
2. We also realized that the political instability and the lack of cohesion among the people may eventually prevent the country from economical success;
3. Geographic barrier is also seen as a factor that limits the connectivity of the region in terms of infrastructure, logistics and transportation;
4. We also acknowledge that individual countries have their own priorities and national interest that is why policies related to legal and regulatory frameworks of each country are not very harmonized and synergized as hoped;
5. Having known these problems, we hereby, as future leaders of the region propose the following to help ensure connectivity in the region in terms of the three categories laid out on the MPAC.

III. Action Plan to Overcome Connectivity Problems

A. Recommendations to Overcome Physical Connectivity

As the future leaders of the ASEAN+3 region, we:

1. Support the modernization of airports, seaports and national highway networks;
2. Encourage ASEAN+3 leaders to improve internet and telecommunications access through Information and Communications Technology (ICT)

initiatives and the promotion of competition in the telecommunications industry;

3. Highly recommend the completion of unfinished physical infrastructure projects;
4. Further recommend the exploration of new transportation routes such as, but not limited to:
 - a. Ferry Routes;
 - b. Bus Routes;
 - c. Railway links;
5. Endorse Public-Private-Partnerships (PPP) to increase funding and overall efficiency of infrastructure projects;
6. Call upon the governments of Plus Three Countries (China, Japan and Republic of Korea) and Singapore for greater technology sharing through the establishment of joint research and academic institutes and the provision for technical expertise assistantship in constructing, maintaining, and updating infrastructure projects in ASEAN countries;
7. Encourage the Private Sector to establish an “ASEAN+3 Mobile Network” within these objectives:
 - a. To have borderless and economical telecommunications services in the ASEAN + 3 region;
 - b. To provide basic communication services anywhere in the region, particularly in rural areas;
8. Request increased funding for infrastructure projects from multilateral organizations such as, but not limited to:
 - a. Asian Development Bank;
 - b. International Monetary Fund;
 - c. World Bank;

B. Recommendations to Overcome Institutional Connectivity

1. Recommend governments to enact visa exemption for all short term Intra-ASEAN travel lasting up to 30 days;

2. Encourage Plus Three Countries (China, Japan and Republic of Korea) to expedite visa processing time for ASEAN nationals intending to stay for a period not more than 21 days;
3. Endorse governments to adopt the “ASEAN+3 Visa” which is an integrated visa for ASEAN nationals visiting Plus Three countries (China, Japan and Republic of Korea);
4. Support the implementation of sound macroeconomic fundamentals through taxation and auditing reforms and the employment of prudential tools for financial systems;
5. Call for the modernization of judicial systems and review of existing regulations in ASEAN + 3 countries for enhanced enforceability and coverage of law;
6. Recommend members of ASEAN + 3 to further enable young entrepreneurs to open businesses by simplifying bureaucratic procedures in government institutions and agencies;
7. Suggest ASEAN + 3 leaders to reduce non-tariff barriers and protectionist policies in congruence to the implementation of the ASEAN Economic Community in 2015;
8. Propose greater collaboration among the respective customs, trade and border regulatory agencies of ASEAN + 3 through conferences or dialogues to streamline immigration and trans-national business processes and address other country-specific issues;
9. Request support from ASEAN + 3 for further enhancement of human capital through vocational trainings especially in CLMV countries, in order to boost their respective specialized labor forces;

C. Recommendations to Overcome People-to-People Connectivity issues

1. Affirm that mobility, exposure and other opportunities for youths will contribute to the enhancement of connectivity and therefore the capacity to overcome future regional challenges;
2. Recommend universities of ASEAN + 3 on the intensification of student exchange through such programs as, but not limited to:

- a. Establishment of joint research institutions among ASEAN + 3 member universities;
 - b. Expand cultural visits and exchanges to create better tolerance and exposure among ASEAN+3 countries;
 - c. Accelerate the mutual recognition of degree and credits among member universities under the framework of the ASEAN Quality Assurance Network (AQAN) and ASEAN QA system;
 - d. Encourage and support student initiatives to have ASEAN+3 scoped clubs or extra-curricular activities;
 - e. Request member universities to have summer camps and short courses for ASEAN + 3 students;
3. Suggest governments of ASEAN+3 to provide more financial support such as scholarships and establish more educational organizations for exchange students;
 4. Recommend ASEAN + 3 universities to incorporate ASEAN and East Asian studies into their curriculum and encourage to select such courses as follows:
 - a. Language;
 - b. Culture and Art;
 - c. History and Politics;
 - d. Environmental Studies;
 - e. Economics;
 5. Affirm that entrepreneurship and leadership skills are important aspects that need to be channeled through the following:
 - a. Encourage ASEAN + 3 universities to incorporate entrepreneurship and leadership programs into their curriculum;
 - b. Support university students to create ASEAN + 3 scaled competitions in line with the aforementioned skills, such as, but not limited to:
 - i. business challenge;
 - ii. contract drafting competitions;
 - iii. project proposal writing competitions;

11. Propose further collaboration between member universities in training their faculty members.

IV. **Closing**

The realization 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 ASEAN+3 Senior Officials Meeting on Youth (SOMY) through the ASEAN Secretariat.

Adopted in Bandung, Indonesia this Eighth of June in the Year Two Thousand and Thirteen

Acknowledged by:

The student participants of the
14th AUN Educational Forum and Young Speakers Contest
