



Annex F

Summit Statements in FY 2018

The 50th ASEAN Economic Ministers' (AEM) Meeting 29 August 2018, Singapore JOINT MEDIA STATEMENT

Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises

40. The Ministers endorsed the ASEAN SME Policy Index (ASPI) 2018 as a reference tool to help monitor and evaluate ASEAN's efforts in advancing MSME development policies in the region and welcomed the convening of national level seminars to share the findings and recommendations, and to discuss possible follow-ups to key recommendations. [The Ministers thanked Canada, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development \(OECD\) and Economic Research Institute for JMS of the 50th AEM 9 ASEAN and East Asia \(ERIA\) for their support in this work undertaken in co-operation with the ASEAN Coordinating Committee on Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises \(ACCMSME\).](#)

The Seventh AEM–Canada Consultations 1 September 2018, Singapore

3. [The Ministers welcomed the completion of the Joint Feasibility Study for an ASEAN-Canada FTA, which was jointly conducted by the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia \(ERIA\) on ASEAN's behalf and Global Affairs Canada.](#) The study showed potential gains for ASEAN and Canada from an FTA, with positive impact on trade and investment flows. In this context, the Ministers also welcomed the outcomes of the first set of Exploratory Discussions for a possible ASEAN-Canada FTA, covering the areas of trade in goods, investment, and services, which provided ASEAN and Canada the opportunity to gain a better understanding of each other's approaches to these areas in an FTA. The Ministers agreed that more dialogue is needed at the experts' level to enhance mutual understand on a range of FTA areas and directed officials to intensify discussions with a view to completing exploratory discussions in 2019.



The Sixth EAS Economic Ministers' Meeting 1 September 2018, Singapore

4. The Ministers congratulated the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) on its 10th Anniversary and welcomed the report of the 11th ERIA Governing Board Meeting. The Ministers commended ERIA's contribution, as a regional think-tank, in supporting regional integration through its research activities, and encouraged ERIA to continue providing targeted high-quality research on topics that highlight and address the challenges facing the region.

The 12th East Asia Summit Energy Ministers Meeting 29 October 2018, Singapore JOINT MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

10. The Ministers noted the LNG Producer Consumer Conference on 22 October 2018 in Nagoya, Japan and the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA)'s contributions towards policy analysis, research studies, roundtables and technical workshops conducted on natural gas and LNG markets.

13. Implementation of the EAS policy research roadmap. The Ministers welcomed the implementation of the EAS Mid-Term Energy Policy Research Roadmap following the adoption of the roadmap at the 11th EAS EMM in September 2017. The studies conducted by ERIA under the roadmap supported the work of the three (3) EAS ECTF work streams, including EAS energy outlook and savings potential, DES application, next generation biofuels and analysis of geothermal energy potential in response to the particular needs of EAS countries for economic analysis.

Chairman's Statement of The 33rd ASEAN Summit Singapore, 13 November 2018

19. We welcomed ASEAN's progress in realising the five economic thrusts identified by Singapore for 2018, namely: promoting innovation and e-commerce; improving trade facilitation; deepening services and investment integration; cultivating a conducive regulatory environment; and progressing ASEAN's external relations. We welcomed the signing by the ASEAN Economic Ministers in November 2018 of the ASEAN Agreement on Electronic Commerce, which would facilitate cross-border ecommerce transactions and promote confidence in the use of e-commerce in the region to drive economic growth and social development. We noted the endorsement by the AEC Council Ministers of the ASEAN Digital Integration Framework, which identifies the economic benefits of, and current challenges to, digital integration for ASEAN and for individual ASEAN Member States, with particular attention paid to MSMEs. We further noted



the ASEAN Secretariat's Assessment of ASEAN's Readiness for the Fourth Industrial Revolution, and tasked our officials to strengthen cross-pillar and cross-sectoral coordination in this area. We commended the 10th Anniversary of the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) and its contributions to deepening economic integration, narrowing the development gap and achieving sustainable development in ASEAN and East Asia, and encouraged ERIA to continue providing targeted high-quality research on topics that highlight and address the challenges facing the region.

**Keynote Address by Yab Tun Dr Mahathir Bin Mohamad,
Prime Minister Of Malaysia
ASEAN Business and Investment Summit (ABIS) 2018**

21. I note that ASEAN-BAC has been pushing for trade facilitation and opportunities offered by low hanging fruits such as speeding up cross-border shipments and reducing bureaucratic processes in order to boost trade volume and lower the costs of doing business. I also commend the proposed collaboration between ASEAN-BAC and Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) to formulate national level priorities for the reduction of non-tariff measures to support 10% reduction in trade costs by 2020. These are indeed initiatives which need to be accelerated in order to see higher rate of growth within ASEAN in the next few years. Malaysia is undertaking structural reforms to ensure we remain competitive. Among the measures to be undertaken includes the formation of a Committee jointly-chaired by both the Ministers of Finance and International Trade and Industry to improve regulatory framework on trade facilitation and taxation.

**Joint Statement of the 21st ASEAN-Japan Summit to Commemorate the
45th Anniversary of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation
13 November 2018**

8. We will further enhance economic integration, such as in promoting the digital economy, through the support of the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) to explore the vision of developing an East Asia community with the ASEAN Community as its core.

Chairman's Statement of the 21st ASEAN-Japan Summit Singapore, 14 November 2018

7. We commended the progress made in the implementation of the ASEAN Japan 10-year Strategic Economic Cooperation Roadmap in various sectors, including activities promoting human resource development, trade facilitation, micro, small and medium enterprise (MSME) development, infrastructure, innovation and transfer of technology. We welcomed the ASEAN-Japan Fourth Industrial Revolution Initiative, which would enable ASEAN to develop its capabilities to benefit from the digital revolution. We encouraged the Economic Ministers to expedite their efforts towards the establishment of an ASEAN-Japan cooperation mechanism to support the implementation of the ASEAN Agreement on Electronic Commerce. We also commended the work of the ASEAN-Japan Innovation Network (AJIN), a private sector led initiative that promotes innovation across sectors and industries, including digital business platforms for MSMEs and emerging industries. We acknowledged the support of the AEM-METI Economic and Industrial Cooperation Committee (AMEICC) in developing industries and strengthening connectivity within the region, notably through the publication of Future of ASEAN – 50 Success Stories of Digitalisation of ASEAN MSMEs. We commended the ASEAN-Japan Centre for its significant role in promoting trade, investment, and tourism as well as people-to-people exchanges and ASEAN awareness. In this regard, we welcomed the Centre's recent structural reforms to address the new challenges faced by ASEAN and Japan, and encouraged the Centre to consider necessary reform. [We also expressed appreciation for the support of the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia \(ERIA\) in promoting our close economic partnership, and Japan's contribution to the Institute.](#)

Chairman's Statement of the 13th East Asia Summit Singapore, 15 November 2018

ASEAN Connectivity

21. We welcomed the establishment of the ASEAN Smart Cities Network and expressed support for the progress made on developing a framework for smart city development in ASEAN as well as city-specific action plans. We also welcomed the ASEAN Sustainable Urbanisation Strategy, which provides cities with useful toolkits to mitigate urban challenges. We looked forward to the non-ASEAN EAS participating Final 6 countries' close partnership with ASEAN cities as their efforts to build smart and sustainable communities evolve over the coming years. [We noted the convening of the 3/2018 ASEAN Connectivity Coordinating Committee \(ACCC\) Meeting, the inaugural Monitoring, Review and Evaluation Meeting, the 9th ASEAN Connectivity Symposium supported by the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia \(ERIA\), and the ACCC Consultations with Dialogue Partners and Other External Partners on Connectivity in Singapore from 4 to 7 September 2018.](#) Recognising the importance of the use of technology as an enabler to improve the lives of our people, we also adopted the EAS Leaders' Statement on ASEAN Smart Cities



Economic Cooperation and Trade

24. We commended the 10th Anniversary of ERIA and its contributions to deepening research on economic integration, narrowing the development gap, achieving sustainable development, and strengthening regional health services in ASEAN and East Asia. We encouraged ERIA to continue providing targeted high-quality research on topics that highlight and address the challenges facing the region.