



## **BURIRAM JOINT STATEMENT OF THE THIRTEENTH ASEAN EDUCATION MINISTERS MEETING**

25 August 2024  
Buriram, Thailand

1. The Thirteenth ASEAN Education Ministers Meeting (13<sup>th</sup> ASED) was held on 25 August 2024 in Buriram, Thailand under the theme “*Transforming Education in the Digital Era*”. The meeting was chaired by His Excellency Police General Permpoon Chidchob, Minister of Education of Thailand.
2. We congratulate Thailand on their assumption of Chairmanship of the ASEAN Education Ministers Meeting for 2024 to 2025, and their excellent leadership of the ASEAN education sector, guided by the ASEAN Workplan on Education 2021-2025.
3. Reaffirming the ASEAN Community Vision 2025, we stress the pivotal role of education in advancing the UN Transforming Education Summit, September 2022 to create “a resilient community with enhanced capacity to adapt and respond to social and economic vulnerabilities, disasters, climate change as well as emerging threats and challenges”.
4. We support Thailand's chairmanship theme, recognising the continuing need to bridge development disparities in human resources, institutional capacity, and competitiveness among ASEAN Member States. We stress the importance of enhancing cooperation and leveraging collective efforts to support ASEAN Member States in focusing on integration, inclusion and sustainable development. To achieve this, we recommend reviving regional initiatives such as the ASEAN Students Exchange programs to strengthen networks among students and teachers. Additionally, we continue to advocate for initiatives aimed at improving quality of education such as capacity building for educators and learning assessment. Furthermore, we encourage fostering people-to-people connectivity among ASEAN Member States and with our Dialogue Partners
5. We remain steadfast towards realizing the ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on the Early Childhood Care and Education in Southeast Asia, including through the development of a Roadmap for the implementation as stipulated in the said Declaration. We express appreciation to Lao PDR for spearheading the ASEAN Forum on Ensuring Equal Access to Quality Early Childhood Development and Care. We further acknowledge the significant progress made by all ASEAN Member States in improving the well-being of children across the region and the significant efforts made by governments in Southeast Asia towards providing integrated early childhood care and education services.
6. We commend Thailand for highlighting “Happy Learning” in the current national policy to address the challenges faced by teachers and educational personnel,

students, and parents, and underscore the importance of ensuring the mental health and well-being of both teachers and students. This policy aims to create a learning ecosystem where all stakeholders are engaged in a happy environment. Overall, “Happy Learning” policy of MOE Thailand is geared at modernising the education system and create a more supportive, nurturing environment for students to thrive academically and personally.

7. We recall our commitment to the ASEAN Declaration on Strengthening Education for Out-of-School Children and Youth (OOSCY), which underscores the right to education and the crucial importance of ensuring equal opportunities in education of all types.
8. We reiterate our commitment to implement the Declaration on the Digital Transformation of Education Systems in ASEAN and its Roadmap which emphasises the imperative of enhancing access to safe digital learning opportunities, fostering digital literacy, and developing transferable skills among all ASEAN Member States. We encourage all ASEAN Member States to create flexible learning environments in line with the learning ecosystem that accommodates both traditional and digital learning methods. We also welcome Thailand’s proposed program of cooperation activities during Thailand’s chairmanship year under this theme.
9. We recognise the global megatrends shaping the future of education in ASEAN and commend the progress made in implementing the ASEAN Declaration on Human Resources Development for the Changing World of Work. Taking into account the capacities and resources of each ASEAN Member State, we emphasise the need to prepare the region’s human resources for the changing world of work as shaped by technological advances, demographic transition, and green economies. We stress the crucial role of education in reskilling and upskilling initiatives to ensure the workforce remains adaptable, resilient and competitive. We also express appreciation to Singapore for its leadership as the Chair of the ASEAN TVET Council, and acknowledge the significant progress made by the Council.
10. Recognising the importance of regional and multi-stakeholder collaboration and partnerships in reimagining and transforming education. We express appreciation to our partners, including SEAMEO, UNICEF, UNESCO, and other regional and global multi-stakeholders, for their steadfast support to the ASEAN education sector.
11. We express our sincere appreciation to Thailand for its effective chairmanship and excellent arrangements made in hosting the 13<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Education Ministers Meeting. We also appreciate the technical support provided by the ASEAN Secretariat. Furthermore, we agree that this Joint Statement, shall henceforth be known as the Buriram Joint Statement.
12. We agree to meet again in 2026 at the 14<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Education Ministers Meeting under the Chairmanship of Singapore.