



**REPORT OF THE  
FOURTEENTH ASEAN MARITIME TRANSPORT WORKING GROUP (MTWG) MEETING  
13-14 AUGUST 2007, BANGKOK, THAILAND**

**INTRODUCTION**

1. The Fourteenth ASEAN Maritime Transport Working Group Meeting (MTWG) was held on 13-14 August 2007 in Bangkok, Thailand.
2. The Meeting was attended by delegates from all ASEAN Member Countries. Staff member of the ASEAN Secretariat was in attendance. Representatives from the ASEAN Federation of Forwarders Associations (AFFA), ASEAN Ports Association (APA) and Federation of ASEAN Shipowners' Associations (FASA) attended the Meeting as observers. Delegations from the Ministry of Communications (MOC) of People's Republic of China; Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport of Japan (MLIT-Japan), and Ministry of Maritime Affairs & Fisheries (MOMAF) of the Republic of Korea also participated in the Meeting through their respective consultations with the MTWG. The list of delegates appears as **ANNEX A**.

**AGENDA ITEM 1: OPENING STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRPERSON**

3. Sub. Lt. Preecha Phetwong, Deputy Director-General, Marine Department of Thailand and Mr. Vuong Dinh Lam, Chairman, Viet Nam Maritime Administration, served the Meeting as Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson respectively.
4. In his Opening Statement, the Chairperson recalled the 23<sup>rd</sup> STOM directives for the MTWG to conclude the Roadmap towards an Integrated and Competitive Maritime Transport in ASEAN and the ASEAN-China Maritime Transport Agreement (ACMTA). Besides urging the Meeting to overcome those pending issues pertaining to these two documents, he also encouraged Member Countries to continue the close cooperation with the ASEAN affiliated transport organisations as well as with ASEAN dialogue partners to contribute to ASEAN maritime transport development.

**AGENDA ITEM 2: ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

5. The Meeting adopted the agenda, which appears as **ANNEX B**.

**AGENDA ITEM 3: BUSINESS ARRANGEMENTS**

6. The Meeting was convened in plenary.

**AGENDA ITEM 4: DECISIONS/FOLLOW-UP REQUIREMENTS FROM THE 23<sup>rd</sup> STOM AND OTHER ASEAN COORDINATING BODIES**

7. The ASEAN Secretariat briefed the Meeting on the relevant developments and follow-up actions from the 23<sup>rd</sup> Senior Transport Officials Meeting (STOM) held on 29-30 May 2007 in Singapore. In particular, the Meeting noted the following:

- (a) STOM tasked the MTWG to finalise the Roadmap Towards an Integrated and Competitive Maritime Transport in ASEAN, including the timeline for the measures, taking into account the recent development in the formulation of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) Blueprint and the Roadmap for Integration of Logistics Services, for 13<sup>th</sup> ATM's adoption;
- (b) STOM endorsed the MTWG's recommendation to support the extension of the ASEAN-APA-GTZ "Handling of Dangerous Goods in ASEAN Ports" project for another 3 years. STOM also supported the MTWG's proposal to finalise the ASEAN maritime roadmap prior to undertaking further efforts in requesting for the transfer of scope and function of the Maritime Transport Sectoral Working Group back from CCS/SEOM;
- (c) Following an extensive discussion on provision 5 on offences committed by crew on board the ships under Article 7 (*Ashore, Entry, Departure and Transit by Crew Member*) of the ACMTA, STOM agreed to adopt the principle, with slight modification, set out in Article 27 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), to replace the proposed paragraph 5 previously submitted by the Philippines, and
- (d) In view that the Republic of Korea (ROK)'s concept paper on the possible transport cooperation areas between ASEAN-ROK focused primarily on (i) maritime logistics and (ii) maritime safety affairs, STOM agreed for MTWG to invite ROK to its future meetings to discuss advancing the ASEAN-ROK maritime cooperation. STOM also recognised institutionalising potential of the ASEAN-ROK transport cooperation.

8. The ASEAN Secretariat also informed the Meeting on the relevant outcome of the 4/38 Senior Economic Officials Meeting (SEOM) held on 16-19 July 2007 in Da Nang, Viet Nam. The Meeting, in particular, noted the Viet Nam SEOM's proposal to revise the paragraph 49 of the AEC Blueprint and the first action point to read "Develop and Implement Strategies for a Single ASEAN Shipping Market and the ASEAN Single Aviation Market", and "Implement relevant international conventions of International Maritime Organisation and other regional agreements".

9. Viet Nam would like to seek clarification on the difference in the usage of "Single ASEAN Shipping Market" and "ASEAN Single Shipping Market" in the AEC Blueprint Strategic Schedule and the Roadmap towards an Integrated and Competitive Maritime Transport in ASEAN.

10. Following an exchange of views, the Meeting preferred and agreed on the terminology of "ASEAN Single Shipping Market" as future reference. The Meeting viewed that this terminology would better illustrate the significance and spectrum of the ASEAN maritime roadmap. The Meeting also expressed

inclination not to joint the air transport and maritime transport action points, as suggested by the Viet Nam SEOM. The AEC Blueprint and the revised strategic schedule appear jointly as **ANNEX C**.

**AGENDA ITEM 5: ROADMAP TOWARDS AN INTEGRATED AND COMPETITIVE MARITIME TRANSPORT IN ASEAN**

11. In line with the 23<sup>rd</sup> STOM's decision in paragraph 7(a) above, the Meeting resumed discussion on the timelines for each of the measure of the "Roadmap towards an Integrated and Competitive Maritime Transport in ASEAN".

12. Following an extensive deliberation, the Meeting agreed to, among others, the following notable timelines:

- (a) Adopt the general principles and framework for a common shipping policy by December 2007;
- (b) Ensure that all ASEAN network ports meet the acceptable performance and capacity levels by December 2015;
- (c) Develop the strategies for an ASEAN Single Shipping Market by December 2009;
- (d) Implement the ASEAN Single Shipping Market by December 2011, and
- (e) Implement single labour market for ASEAN seafarers in accordance with the decisions of the other relevant ASEAN sectoral bodies, namely the ASEAN Coordinating Committee on Services (CCS), and ASEAN Maritime Transport Sectoral Negotiation Working Group by December 2013.

13. Taking into consideration that the ASEAN Ports Association (APA) may not have the necessary resources to support STOM/MTWG in the implementation of the infrastructure development measures 5-8 listed in the maritime roadmap, the Meeting shared the view for APA to seek technical assistance from external donor-institutions to develop/identify:

- (a) a database of maritime trade movements to and from within ASEAN;
- (b) guidelines for assessing port development priorities, including acceptable performance levels;
- (c) required improvement areas in ASEAN network port performance and capacity, based among others, on regular forecasts of maritime trade and requirements, and
- (d) project priorities, based on the guidelines for assessing port development, to raise performance and capacity levels towards bridging such gaps in ASEAN network ports.

14. As a general principle, the Meeting agreed to adopt the "ASEAN minus X" arrangement in the implementation of the "Roadmap towards an Integrated and Competitive Maritime Transport in ASEAN". This means that two or more ASEAN Member Countries who are ready can proceed with the implementation of the maritime roadmap. The other Member Countries could join in the implementation when they are ready.

15. Moving forward, the Meeting agreed to submit the final draft "Roadmap towards an Integrated and Competitive Maritime Transport in ASEAN", appearing as **ANNEX D**, to the 24<sup>th</sup> STOM for endorsement and subsequent adoption at the 13<sup>th</sup> ATM Meeting. In line with this, the Meeting requested Member Countries to complete their domestic formalities on this matter.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 6: COMMON ASEAN NEAR COASTAL VOYAGE (NCV) LIMITS**

16. The Meeting noted the submission by Myanmar on the details of her geographical NCV limits as well as details of certificates of competency (CoC) issued for seafarers working on ships within the NCV, which collectively appears as **ANNEX E**. The Meeting further noted that Myanmar's definition of NCV limit include *"coastal trade/voyages from any port or place in Pakistan, India, Maldives, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore, Thailand to any other port or place in these countries subject to specific reference to proximity of safe havens on such voyages"*.

17. As her follow-up to the decision of the 13<sup>th</sup> MTWG Meeting, Singapore presented to the Meeting the drafted common ASEAN Near Coastal Voyage (NCV) limits and the geographical coordinates, based on the questionnaire inputs previously submitted by Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam.

18. The Meeting extolled Singapore for the comprehensive ASEAN NCV limits status paper, appearing as **ANNEX F**, and exchanged views on the proposed common ASEAN NCV geographic limits and its possible implications. As a rule of thumb, the Meeting agreed that common ASEAN NCV proposed by ASEAN Member Countries should be in line with the existing and amended Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping (STCW) NCV principles. The Meeting noted that IMO is presently reviewing the NCV limits principles in the STCW Convention.

19. Cambodia informed the Meeting that she will submit her geographical NCV limits upon completion of her domestic formalities. Cambodia added that it is highly likely that her geographical NCV limit is within the common ASEAN NCV as presented by Singapore. The Meeting also noted that this NCV limit exercise is not applicable to Lao PDR.

20. As a follow-up, the Meeting requested Singapore to incorporate the NCV inputs submitted by Myanmar to her said status report. The Meeting also requested Member Countries, who may have amended their NCV limits and/or additional comments to the Singapore ASEAN NCV limits status paper, to provide updates to Singapore, who will circulate her revised ASEAN NCV limits status report at the 15<sup>th</sup> MTWG Meeting.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 7: IMO-ASEAN PARTNERSHIP**

21. The Meeting recalled the submission of draft project proposals respectively by the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand at the last MTWG Meeting for consideration under the IMO-ASEAN partnership, namely:

- (a) The Philippines: (i) Harmonisation of Maritime Safety and Marine Pollution Prevention Rules/Standards Among ASEAN Maritime Administrations”, (ii) “Development of a Uniform Ship Safety Survey/ Inspection System”, and (iii) “Establishment of an ASEAN Classification Society or ASEAN Register”;
- (b) Singapore: “Conducting of Investigation Course”, and
- (c) Thailand: “ASEAN Common Safety Standards for Non-Convention Vessels”

22. During the discussion on prioritising the above five project proposals, appearing collectively as **ANNEX G**, for the consideration of IMO’s funding assistance, the Meeting recalled that the Philippines had, at the 12<sup>th</sup> MTWG Meeting, permitted Thailand to make reference to her project (i) in the drafting of the above Thai project proposal (c). Taking this into consideration, the Philippines announced her willingness to omit project (i) for the submission to IMO.

23. At this juncture, the Meeting noted the draft project proposal prepared by Indonesia on the strengthening of the ASEAN-OSRAP (Oil Spill Response Action Plan), which appears as **ANNEX H**. Indonesia had prepared the TOR in response to the presentation by the representative of the IMO on the “Draft Action Plan for a Global Initiative (GI) – Southeast Asia Project” at the previous MTWG Meeting. Indonesia explained that the project is aimed at strengthening the ASEAN-OSRAP by the establishment of the pronged approaches in the protection of the marine and coastal environment from oil spill incidents, through cooperation between relevant government authorities and the oil industry at the national and regional levels for the benefit of the Member Country. Indonesia would welcome the assistance of co-sponsors to jointly oversee the project.

24. Taking into consideration that the content of the project also involves the possible oil spills preparedness and response arrangement, Thailand suggested for Indonesia to forward this said project proposal to all Oil Spill Preparedness Action Response (OSPAR) focal points in ASEAN Member Countries for reference before the next OSPAR Meeting in November 2007 in Indonesia.

25. To assist Indonesia in enhancing the content of her OSRAP project proposal, the Meeting noted the circulation of a concept proposal at the plenary by the Philippines on the development of broader regional cooperation among ASEAN Member Countries on oil spills preparedness and response arrangement, which appears as **ANNEX I**. While it was unable to discuss further the Philippines’ concept proposal due to time constraint, the Meeting encouraged Indonesia to study the said concept proposal and to incorporate relevant information to her OSRAP project proposal.

26. With the introduction of Indonesia’s project proposal, the Meeting agreed to consider the five project proposals on-hand for IMO’s funding consideration (i.e one each from Indonesia, Singapore and Thailand, as well as two from the Philippines) at the 15<sup>th</sup> MTWG Meeting in 2008. To better prioritise the above five project proposals, the Meeting requested the ASEAN Secretariat to seek IMO’s guidance/advice on the amount of funding assistance for the new IMO-ASEAN Follow-Through Projects.

The Meeting also noted potential project interests indicated by Malaysia and Viet Nam. Both Member Countries will circulate draft proposals at the next MTWG Meeting.

27. The ASEAN Secretariat reported that it had, following the last MTWG Meeting, officiated a formal application to IMO to utilise the unexpended fund of about US\$17,000 under the last MOU (*i.e. IMO-ASEAN Follow-Through Projects on the Drafting and Updating of Maritime Legislation to Support the Adoption and Accession by ASEAN Member Countries to IMO Conventions*), to convene the Third Meeting of the ASEAN Forum on IMO Conventions (in conjunction with the 14<sup>th</sup> MTWG Meeting) with the objectives of prioritising and discussing the implementation details of the proposed projects under the ASEAN-IMO Partnership. However, Thailand and the ASEAN Secretariat were unable to secure IMO's positive response in time.

28. As a follow-up, the ASEAN Secretariat will continue to work with IMO and the incoming MTWG Chairperson, Viet Nam, in convening the Third Meeting of the ASEAN Forum on IMO Conventions, possibly in conjunction with the 15<sup>th</sup> MTWG Meeting in 2008.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 8: OUTCOMES OF THE SECOND BIMP-EAGA TRANSPORT MINISTERS MEETING**

29. The Philippines, as host, briefed the Meeting on the relevant outcomes of the Second BIMP-EAGA Transport Ministers Meeting which was held on 26 July 2007 in Davao, the Philippines. The Report of the Second BIMP-EAGA Transport Ministers Meeting appears as ANNEX J.

30. In particular, the Meeting noted that the BIMP-EAGA Transport Ministers were encouraged by the progress made on the finalisation of the MoU on Establishing and Promoting Efficient and Integrated Sea Linkages, and had directed their senior transport officials, through the BIMP-EAGA Transport, Infrastructure, and ICT Development (TIICTD) Cluster, to expedite the conclusion of this agreement for signing during the 13<sup>th</sup> ATM Meeting this November 2007 in Singapore. The proposed MoU provides measures to enhance the role of the Designated BIMP-EAGA Gateway Ports in promoting and facilitating intra-EAGA maritime trade and movement of people.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 9: COOPERATION WITH ASEAN TRANSPORT AFFILIATED PRIVATE SECTOR ORGANISATIONS**

##### **9.1 ASEAN FEDERATION OF FORWARDERS ASSOCIATIONS (AFFA)**

31. The Chairperson of AFFA expressed appreciation to the Meeting for the official invitation to AFFA to attend the 14<sup>th</sup> MTWG Meeting. Having recently taken over the AFFA chairpersonship from the Philippines, the AFFA Chairperson highlighted that he would like to take the opportunity to be familiarised with ASEAN processes. He agreed to brief on AFFA's on-going programmes and activities related to the ASEAN maritime transport sector at the next MTWG Meeting.

32. The Meeting also noted that Cambodia, as host and chairperson of the 14<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Transport Facilitation Working Group (TFWG), had invited AFFA to attend the second One-day Forum between TFWG and AFFA to discuss the Operationalisation of the ASEAN Framework Agreement on Multimodal Transport and other transport facilitation matters on 27 August 2007. The One-day Forum will be held in conjunction with the 14<sup>th</sup> TFWG on 28-29 August 2007.

## **9.2 ASEAN PORTS ASSOCIATION (APA)**

33. The Meeting thanked the APA representative for her briefing on APA's on-going programmes and activities, which included, among others, the following:

- (a) status of IT-related development for major ASEAN ports;
- (b) increasing privatisation/commercialisation of major ASEAN ports to facilitate infrastructure development and improvement;
- (c) ISPS code implementation by major ASEAN ports to enhance port security;
- (d) the APA seminar on "Exchange of Information on Port Development Projects" with the theme "Development in ASEAN Ports: Challenges Ahead" was convened on 7-8 March 2007 in Singapore. A total of 29 officials from APA port authorities and terminal operators attended the seminar.

34. On the ASEAN-APA-GTZ "Handling of Dangerous Goods in ASEAN Ports", the APA representative affirmed the commitment of the APA Permanent Secretariat to coordinate regularly with the ASEAN Secretariat to implement the 3-year period extension of the said project. The current 3-year extension request would, among others, provide (i) continuous support to the two selected ports i.e. Ilo-ilo (the Philippines) and Laem Chabang (Thailand) until the certification of the developed Port Safety Health an Environment Management System (PSHE-MS) and (ii) assistance to the other ports to also develop and implement a PSHE-MS.

## **9.3 FEDERATION OF ASEAN SHIPOWNERS' ASSOCIATIONS (FASA)**

35. The Meeting noted with appreciation the comprehensive briefing by the representatives by FASA on its respective activities and concerns related to the ASEAN maritime transport sector. In particular, the Meeting noted that (a) FASA supported Singapore as the venue for the setting up of the ASEAN Shipowners Forum (ASF) Permanent Secretariat, and (b) The incidence of piracy and armed robbery, especially those in ASEAN waters, has continued to decrease. The FASA brief appears as **ANNEX K**.

36. FASA also highlighted that based on the International Maritime Bureau (IMB) first half of 2007 report, there were a total of 41 reported incidents as compared with 52 during the same period in 2006. The number of attacks on ships that were underway also dropped from 17 in 2006 to 9 incidents in 2007 during the same period. From the report, it appears that attacks on ships at berth or at the anchorages have gone up from 22 cases to 32 cases. FASA viewed that such development may be due to the lack of adequate security at some of the port facilities.

37. FASA further reported that the trend of pirate attacks in ASEAN waters had eased due to better surveillance by enforcement agencies. FASA maintained the importance for ASEAN to ensure that its regional waters are always kept safe for the navigation of ships trading in the region. FASA added that the commitment of ASEAN coastal states in enhancing maritime security and safe navigation of ships will encourage the growth of international and regional shipping.

38. FASA also informed the Meeting that four academic institutions, namely the Maritime Institute of Malaysia, the Centre for South East Asian Studies of Indonesia, the S Rajaratnam School of International Studies of Singapore and the Nippon Foundation of Japan, had in March 2007, staged a symposium in Kuala Lumpur to explore avenues, especially on funding, to enhance the Safety of Navigation and Environment Protection in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore.

39. FASA reiterated that ASEAN shipowners whose ships are currently trading to the three Member Countries bordering the Straits of Malacca and Singapore are already paying port or light dues for the upkeep and maintenance of navigational aids. In this light, FASA does not support any form of levy on ships using the Straits. However, FASA supports the proposal that the littoral States, user States, the shipping industry and other relevant stakeholders, which use the Straits of Malacca and Singapore, to cooperate towards the establishment of a mechanism for voluntary funding in achieving its objectives. FASA opined that the voluntary funds, once established, should be well-accounted, transparent and efficiently managed by a board that should include shipping community representatives.

40. Thailand informed the Meeting that her Ministry of Foreign Affairs had issued a letter to the Joint War Committee (JWC) to request for the removal of the southern Thai region from the war-risk list. To date, there has been no positive response received from JWC. Thailand will, upon receiving the response from JWC, update the MTWG.

## **AGENDA ITEM 10: TRANSPORT COOPERATION WITH ASEAN DIALOGUE PARTNERS**

### **10.1 CHINA**

41. The ASEAN Secretariat informed the Meeting that it had, in line with the 23<sup>rd</sup> STOM decision on the ACMTA listed in paragraph 7(c) above, conveyed the STOM's agreed draft ACMTA to China for appropriate follow-up and reference. Upon receiving China's in-principle concurrence to the STOM's agreed draft ACMTA, notwithstanding China's editorial preferences in Article 8 (Jurisdiction On Board Vessels) and Article 17 (Depositary), the ASEAN Secretariat forwarded such inputs to the MTWG Member Countries for review. When Malaysia and Singapore provided additional comments/inputs on the ACMTA, the ASEAN Secretariat had similarly directed such inputs to the other MTWG Member Countries and China for attention.

42. During the deliberation of the ACMTA, the Meeting agreed to the following principles:

- (a) The ACMTA is between two Contracting Parties i.e. ASEAN (consisting of ten Member Countries) and China. In the event that an ASEAN Member Country breached the ACMTA, the other nine ASEAN Member Countries would not be bound by such breaching act.
- (b) The provisions of this Agreement shall not limit the rights of China and any Member Country of ASEAN to take measures for the protection of its security and public health or prevention of disease and pests in animals and plants.
- (c) Shipping Services of Article 9 (Payment and Remittance) includes management and conduct of initial and terminal haulage.
- (d) On the "Maritime Transport Security Cooperation" measure in Article 10 (Maritime Cooperation), China assured the Meeting that she fully respects the sovereignty of the ASEAN Member Countries, especially on areas related to the Straits of Malacca and Singapore. Both sides agreed to promote cooperation to enhance maritime security, including the implementation of the provisions of the International Ship and Port Facility Security (ISPS) Code.

43. Moving forward, the Meeting agreed to submit the final draft ACMTA, appearing as ANNEX L, to the 24<sup>th</sup> STOM/6<sup>th</sup> STOM-China for endorsement and for subsequent adoption and signing at the 13<sup>th</sup> ATM/6<sup>th</sup> ATM-China Meeting respectively. In line with this, the Meeting requested Member Countries to begin their domestic formalities on this matter. The ASEAN Secretariat also requested ASEAN Member Countries and China to submit the names of their Transport Ministers as signatories of the ACMTA.

44. The Meeting also noted the content and agenda for the forthcoming ASEAN-China maritime activities, namely the (a) 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting on ASEAN-China Maritime Consultation Mechanism and (b) Shanghai International Maritime Forum, which will be held on 4-8 September 2007 in Qingdao, and 7-8 November 2007 in Shanghai respectively.

45. The ASEAN Secretariat informed the Meeting that six Member Countries, namely Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, the Philippines and Viet Nam, had registered for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting on ASEAN-China Maritime Consultation Mechanism in Qingdao. The Meeting requested the rest of the Member Countries to submit their registration to the Maritime Safety Administration of China at their soonest.

## 10.2 JAPAN

46. The Meeting noted with appreciation the presentation by Japan, appearing as ANNEX M, on the recommendations and relevant follow-up actions from the (i) 5<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-Japan STOM Leaders' Conference held in Okayama City, Japan on 26-27 June 2007, and (ii) Assessment of the ASEAN-Japan Transport Partnership, including its 7 maritime transport projects.

47. The Meeting, in particular, took note, among others, on the following updates/developments:

- (a) An assessment of the 21 ASEAN-Japan Transport Partnership Projects categorised under (a) constantly active; (b) accomplishment of goal; and (c) not able to accomplish goal as expected, will be conducted within two years. The assessment, known as the "Okayama Process", will be based on a multimodal policy and cooperation approach, consisting of transport logistics; safety and security; environment, among others. The draft concept and outline of the assessment will be tabled at the 6<sup>th</sup> STOM-Japan Meeting and the 5<sup>th</sup> ATM-Japan Meeting in early November 2007 in Singapore, and the detailed assessment work will be concluded by 2008;
- (b) AJMT-1 - ASEAN-Japan Seafarer Policy Cooperation - Japan will be organising the Experts Meeting on Improving Quality of Seafarers in Asia, tentatively to be held on 12-13 November 2007 in Tokyo. The aim of the meeting is to deepen mutual understanding and enhancing cooperation on the development of a cooperative programme for seafarers training. Japan also issued the official invitation to all ASEAN Member Countries to participate in this Experts Meeting. ASEAN Member Countries are requested to register by 31 August 2007.
- (c) AJMT-2 – ASEAN-Japan Maritime Transport Security Programme – Japan informed that the 3<sup>rd</sup> ASEAN-Japan Port Security Expert Meeting (PSEM) was held in Jakarta, Indonesia on 14 March 2007. The 4<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-Japan PSEM will be held in Fukuoka in September 2007 to (i) discuss the next Joint Communication Exercise; (ii) develop manual for Declaration of Security, and (iii) share best practices on port security measures. The Joint Communication Exercise will be held in January 2008.
- (d) AJMT-6 – Port Technology Joint Research Project – The 4<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-Japan Port Technology Group Meeting was convened in Colombo, Sri Lanka in February 2007. This was a follow-up to the 3<sup>rd</sup> ASEAN-Japan Port Technology Group Meeting in March 2006 in Jakarta where the ASEAN-Japan Joint Research Programme for the development of coastal disaster protection measures, including the method of preparing Tsunami Hazard Map and Tsunami Hazard Map Guideline for ASEAN Countries, was agreed upon. Moving forward, the 5<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-Japan Port Technology Group Meeting will be held in Japan tentatively in October 2007 to develop tsunami hazard maps of selected countries.

48. Moving forward, Japan requested ASEAN Member Countries to provide their inputs, if any, on the draft Work Plan 2007-2008 of these seven AJMT projects by **14 September 2007**. Japan will thereafter collate all inputs and circulate to Member Countries the finalised Work Plan 2007-2008 for the seven AJMT projects by **5 October 2007**. The finalised Work Plan 2007-2008 of the seven AJMT projects will be submitted to the 6<sup>th</sup> STOM-Japan Meeting on 31 October 2007 in Singapore, for consideration/endorsement.

49. The Meeting expressed appreciation to Japan for her technical support and assistance in advancing the seven AJMT partnership projects. The Meeting affirmed its commitment to work with Japan for the successful implementation of these seven AJMT projects

### 10.3 REPUBLIC OF KOREA (ROK)

50. The Meeting commended Korea for her comprehensive presentation on the possible concrete projects and activities that may be implemented under the ASEAN-Korea maritime cooperation. The proposed projects included the following:

(a) Development of Transport Facilities

- To enhance capacity and efficiency of regional transport infrastructure facilities, as well as the transport cooperation towards neighboring countries;
- Funding mechanism: Project Financing or ODA from KOICA and EDCF Loan

(b) GICOMS System

- To enhance capacity on maritime safety, security and marine environmental protection.
- Aims to prevent marine casualty by taking swift actions against marine incidents and thus minimize the damage.
- Funding mechanism: ODA from KOICA and EDCF Loan
- Technical Cooperation Program

(c) Asia Regional Long-Range Identification and Tracking (LRIT) Data Centre

- Idea of the establishment of Asia Regional LRIT Data Center was initiated by the Philippines and Korea.
- Aims at enhancing the maritime safety and security and protecting the marine environment and also strengthening the multilateral co-operation in respect of maritime affairs among the participating States in the region.

51. In view that some of these proposed projects/activities may be of direct relevance to other domestic agencies, and thus may require their participation and involvement, the Meeting requested the ASEAN Member Countries to undertake a capital consultation on Korea's three proposed projects/activities, and to discuss them at the next MTWG Meeting in 2008. Korea's presentation and the write-up on the Asia LRIT Data Centre appear jointly as **ANNEX N**.

52. On her request to participate in the 24th ASEAN STOM as observer, Korea reported that, following the 23rd STOM, the domestic consultation has been undertaking among the related ministry overseeing land and civil aviation transportation. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MOFAT) of Korea will inform officially to the ASEAN Secretariat Korea's confirmation in engaging with ASEAN in all modes of transport cooperation at the senior official level. Taking the above into consideration, Korea requested for the 14th MTWG's support to participate in the 24th STOM, to regularise the ASEAN- Korea transport cooperation.

53. The Meeting expressed appreciation to Korea for her interest and efforts in establishing closer transport cooperation with ASEAN. The Meeting affirmed its commitment in building a closer maritime cooperation with Korea. In this regard, the Meeting agreed to invite Korea to future MTWG Meetings

to explore such cooperation. The Meeting looked forward to working with Korea in the other modes of transport cooperation.

## **AGENDA ITEM 11: OTHER MATTERS**

### **11.1 DRAFT ASEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY BLUEPRINT**

54. The ASEAN Secretariat briefed the Meeting on the relevant outcome of the inaugural AEC Coordinating Conference (ECOM) held in the ASEAN Secretariat, Jakarta on 7-8 June 2007. The Meeting also recalled its discussion on the AEC Blueprint and its strategic schedule under paragraphs 8-10 of Agenda Item 4 in this report.

### **11.2 ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ASEAN MARITIME FORUM**

55. The ASEAN Secretariat informed the Meeting that ASEAN-Indonesia had, with funding support from Japan under the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF), developed a project proposal on Workshop on the Establishment of an ASEAN Maritime Forum, appearing as **ANNEX O**, to come up with the modalities for establishing an ASEAN Maritime Forum for the purpose of fostering maritime cooperation and dialogue among ASEAN Member Countries.

56. The ASEAN Secretariat added that the proposed date for the workshop on the establishment on ASEAN Maritime Forum is tentatively in early September 2007 in Batam, Indonesia.

57. Singapore commented that the workshop/forum should complement, rather than duplicate, the existing work done at MTWG. As such, Singapore suggested that the workshop/forum could serve as an avenue for technical experts from academia or the industry to exchange views which then could be floated up to official forums such as the MTWG for consideration. In this respect, Singapore informed the MTWG that it had invited an expert from the NUS Centre of Maritime Studies to attend the workshop in Batam. Singapore added that the workshop/forum could be further utilised as an avenue to engage and obtain technical assistance from interested parties such as the IMO and Japan to improve the human and technical capacities of member countries.

58. Taking into consideration that this project proposal is initiated by the Foreign Affairs Ministry of Indonesia, the Meeting requested Member Countries to coordinate with their respective foreign affairs ministry by providing relevant maritime transport inputs to enhance the content of such a workshop.

### **11.3 TOR OF THE STUDY FOR THE DEVELOPMENT & INTRA-ASEAN FERRY LINKS TO CONNECT THE MAJOR ASEAN LAND TRANSPORT / HIGHWAYS / CORRIDORS**

59. Indonesia informed the Meeting that she has yet to receive inputs/comments from ASEAN Member Countries pertaining to the draft TOR of the Study for the Development and Intra-ASEAN Ferry

Links to connect the major ASEAN Land Transport/Highways/Corridors. Indonesia will update the Meeting upon receiving inputs/comments from the ASEAN Member Countries.

#### **11.4 REGULAR EXCHANGE OF EXPERIENCE**

60. Indonesia reported that following the establishing of her national Maritime Security Coordinating Body to handle law enforcement at sea, in particular, armed robbery and piracy, she is now in the process of reviewing her port security act/legislation. To assist her in the reviewing process, Indonesia would like to request a copy of the port security act of other ASEAN Member Countries for reference.

61. The Meeting also thanked the Port Authority of Thailand (PAT) for its two presentations, which appear jointly as **ANNEX P**, on:

- (a) the status of E-Logistic in Thailand, and
- (b) the profile update of Laem Chabang port.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 12: DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

62. The Meeting agreed to convene the 15<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Maritime Transport Working Group Meeting in Ha Noi, Viet Nam in the first half of 2008. Viet Nam will convey to the ASEAN Member Countries the exact date and venue of the next meeting, through the ASEAN Secretariat, in due course. Vietnam also informed that she is pleased to accept the Chairmanship of ASEAN Maritime Transport Working Group and host its meetings for the period 2008-2009.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 13: CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF THE REPORT**

63. The Meeting considered and adopted the Report of the Fourteenth ASEAN Maritime Transport Working Group Meeting held in Bangkok, Thailand on 13-14 August 2007.

#### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

The Meeting expressed their sincere appreciation to the Royal Thai Government and people of the Kingdom of Thailand for the warm hospitality accorded to the delegations and the excellent arrangements made for the Meeting.

The Meeting also expressed thanks to the ASEAN Secretariat for the technical assistance rendered.

The Meeting was held in the traditional spirit of ASEAN cordiality and solidarity.

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