**REPORT IN SUMMARY OF**

**THE 25th MEETING OF**

**THE ASEAN CENTRE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVES**

**BOARD (ACEDAC)**

1. **– 24 July 2018, Langkawi, Malaysia**
2. The Twenty Fifth Meeting of the ASEAN Centre for the Development of Agricultural Cooperatives (25th ACEDAC) Board was held on 23 – 24 July 2018, in Langkawi, Malaysia. The Meeting was attended by representatives from governments, agricultural cooperatives, and farmers’ organization of Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand, Viet Nam and the ASEAN Secretariat. Representatives from the ASEAN Farmers’ Organizations Support Programme (AFOSP) – represented by ASEAN Foundation and Asian Farmers’ Association, the Project Coordinator of the Strengthening Capacity Building in Agriculture Sector in ASEAN Countries Project (CB Project) – Phase 3 and the ACEDAC Secretariat.
3. The Meeting noted the progress report on Strengthening Capacity Building in Agriculture Sector in ASEAN Countries project (CB Project) – Phase 3 that the activities of the Project include the Annual Coordination Meeting (ACM), agricultural policy seminar, training courses, bilateral training in Japan, dispatched of Japanese short-term experts and monitoring and evaluation. The Meeting noted that the CB Project – Phase 3 has been implemented since October 2017.The Meeting appreciated the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) Japan of CB Project – Phase 3 in supporting capacity building in agriculture sector. AMS also explored opportunity to seek funding from the Project for training for other topics and to also prioritize farmer member of agricultural cooperatives and farmer organizations to participate in the training.
4. The Meeting was informed of the role of women in cooperatives in Thailand that the increasing participation of women in agricultural cooperatives in Thailand and the effort to empower women in businesses and management of agricultural cooperatives, by designing activities to promote occupational groups. In Philippines, the CDA Milestones and Progress in Gender and Development (GAD) Mainstreaming in the Philippines abd CDA has implemented several programs in its effort to enhance women participation through CDA’s GAD Framework which consists of capacity building, technical assistance, seminars and GAD tools. While, in Malaysia has also implemented an effort to enhance women participation in agricultural cooperatives and farmer organizations through increasing the opportunity of women’s ownership of land. The Meeting was also informed that in Cambodia, women hold a strong participation in agricultural cooperatives, in which the participation of women is higher than men (60% from the total members of agricultural cooperatives). The Meeting noted that the Philippines suggested to explore the possibility of developing a joint project/program with Thailand and other AMS to enhance the role of women in agricultural cooperatives.
5. The Meeting noted the Exchange Visit of Cooperatives Personnel and Leaders that was held on 9 – 13 October 2017 in Johor, Malaysia. Indonesia will be the host of the upcoming ASEAN Exchange Visit, in cooperation with ASEAN Foundation/AFOSP. The exchange visit which will be held on 24 – 26 October 2018 in Purworejo, Indonesia, with a theme of “Strengthening the Role of Agricultural Cooperatives in the Coconut Value Chain Management and job creations in rural areas”.
6. The Meeting noted the update from Thailand on the development of the ACEDAC website (<http://www.acedac.org>) that Thailand has conducted training course on ACEDAC website development of Lao PDR and cooperative website design by using Joomla Templates for four government officers from the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry on 27 – 29 March 2018 in Thailand. Currently there are four (4) AMS that have linked their website to ACEDAC website namely Lao PDR ([www.acedac-laos.org/laos](http://www.acedac-laos.org/laos)), the Philippines (<http://www.e-cooptrade.com>), Thailand (<http://thailand.acedac.org>) and Viet Nam (<http://dcrd.gov.vn>). Thailand encouraged other ACEDAC Members to participate in updating information and to link their website with ACEDAC website by sending the URL to Thailand. Thailand informed the Meeting that AMS could send the request to Thailand should they need a training to develop their ACEDAC website using Joomla Template.
7. The Meeting was informed that the 7th ACBF was held on 15 – 18 January 2018 in Manila, Philippines with a theme of “Coop to Coop Partnership to Advance Prosperity for All”. The Meeting noted that the 8th ACBF will be held in February 2019 in Thailand.
8. The Meeting noted that the 26th Meeting of the ASEAN Centre for the Development of Agriculture Cooperatives (ACEDAC) Board, back to back with the 21st ASWGAC Meeting, tentatively would be held tentatively in May/June 2019 in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar. The exact date and venue of the Meeting will be informed to AMS in due course through the ASEAN Secretariat.
9. The Meeting noted that, on a rotational basis, the Philippines will be the host of the 27th Meeting of the ACEDAC Board, back to back with the 22nd ASWGAC Meeting, prior to SOM-AMAF Meeting in August 2020.