**REPORT OF THE 21st MEETING OF**

**THE ASEAN SECTORAL WORKING GROUP ON AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVES**

**(21st ASWGAC)**

1. **– 23 May 2019, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar**
2. The Twenty First Meeting of the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Agricultural Cooperatives (ASWGAC) was held on 22 – 23 May 2019 in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar. The Meeting was attended by delegations from Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand, and the ASEAN Secretariat. Representatives from the Human Resource Development in Food-related Areas through Partnership with Universities in ASEAN Region Project (HRD Project) – Phase 2, ACEDAC Secretariat and the ASEAN Farmers’ Organizations Support Programme (AFOSP) – represented by ASEAN Foundation and Asian Farmers’ Association (AFA).
3. The Meeting noted the decisions/guidance from the Special SOM-39th AMAF, 40th AMAF Meeting and related meetings. The Meeting noted the endorsement from AMAF to the ASEAN Roadmap for Enhancing the Role of Agricultural Cooperatives in Agricultural Global Value Chains by the 40th AMAF and agreed to further discuss the implementation to the Roadmap. The Meeting also noted the action program of the SPA-FS related to ASWGAC, in which to strengthen the Food Marketing System of Agricultural Cooperatives for Enhancing Food Security in ASEAN.
4. The Meeting noted the update from the ASEAN Secretariat on ASEAN Multisectoral Framework on

Climate Change: Agriculture and Forestry towards Food Security. The Meeting recalled the discussion on having more substantive issues in the Meeting and agreed that climate change has correlation to the work of cooperatives and has affected the production of cooperatives. The Meeting would like to explore possible cooperation with working groups working in the area of climate change.

1. The Meeting noted the ASEAN Secretariat’s Information Paper on the Roadmap for an ASEAN Community. The Meeting noted the reaffirmation of commitment to the full and effective implementation of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the ASEAN Leaders’ Vision for a Resilient and Innovative ASEAN.
2. The Meeting discussed and updated several sub activities on the STRATEGIC PLAN OF ACTION OF THE ASWGAC (SPA) to support the implementation of action programmes. The Meeting identified priority activities for 2019-2020 which includes Cooperatives Insurance, Cooperative Branding, Exchange Visit of Cooperatives Personnel and Leaders, ASEAN Cooperatives Business Forum. The Meeting agreed to form proposal(s) to support the implementation of priority activities under the SPA.
3. The Meeting noted the Workshop on ASEAN Roadmap for Enhancing the Role of Agriculture Cooperatives in the Global Value Chain 2018-2025 has been conducted on 28 February 2019 in Bangkok. The workshop was aimed to bring together multi stakeholders for 2019 – 2025 collaboration to harmonise the implementation of ASEAN Roadmap in the regional and national levels in particular to strengthen the roles of agricultural cooperatives in agricultural global value chain under the four ASEAN Roadmap’s pillars, namely: institutional/capacity development, competitiveness, access to finance for investments and working capital markets, and access to market. The workshop provided a fruitful exchange of views and resulted in a recommended action plan and priorities that can be utilised to operationalise the ASEAN Roadmap 2019-2025 by the ASWGAC and/or stakeholders for cooperation. Based on the discussion, to which are divided into national and regional assessment, strengthening the market access and capacity building on agricultural cooperatives were considered as the priority with suggested activity to launch e-commerce with e-payment by using the existing platform under ACCMSME and financial service, in particular development of weather index for insurance scheme. The Meeting discussed the possibility to conduct a workshop to create a new project/collaboration in order to implement the Roadmap based on the priorities discussed at the first workshop such as cooperatives insurance and e-commerce and also agreed to appoint the Lead Country for each thematic project.
4. The Meeting noted the progress report on Strengthening Capacity Building in Agriculture Sector in ASEAN Countries Project (CB Project) – Phase 3 and 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. The completion of CB Project – Phase 3 will be on September 2020. ASEAN Secretariat has been informed by MAFF Japan on the future project as the successor of the CB Project – Phase 3. The new Project is expected to work on the area of food value chain which will involve cooperatives in ASEAN and Japanese companies. The Meeting requested ASEAN Secretariat to facilitate the preparation of the new project and send proposal to AMS to allow AMS to provide comments and input to the new project. The Meeting also requested to conduct a workshop in order to discuss the new project proposal that will enable AMS to work on the proposal and ensure the needs of AMS are accommodated in the new project.
5. The Meeting noted that the 22nd Meeting of the ASWGAC tentatively would be held back to back with the 27th ACEDAC Board Meeting in June 2020 in the Philippines. On a rotational basis, Thailand will be the host of the 23rd Meeting of the ASWGAC, back to back with the 28th ACEDAC Board Meeting, prior to SOM-AMAF Meeting in August 2021.