**REPORT IN SUMMARY OF THE 24th MEETING OF THE ACEDAC BOARD,**

**16-17 MAY 2017, VIENTIANE, LAO PDR**

The Meeting noted the report of the 24th ACEDAC Meeting was held on 16-17 May 2017 in Vientiane, Lao PDR. The report highlighted the progress of cooperation projects and activities which include amongst other a) strengthen the role of Agricultural Cooperatives in food marketing chain system, b) enhance the role of women in the Agricultural Cooperative in ASEAN; c) Exchange Visit of Cooperatives Personnel and Leaders; d) Progress Report of the Activities of Strategic Alliances Projects by Each Lead Country; and the 6th ACBF.

The Meeting supported recommendations from the 24th ACEDAC Meeting which includes to expand further the concept note on development of marketing chain system in ASEAN (Thailand) and to discuss topic on business networking, the role of women in agricultural cooperatives, organic fertiliser and specific commodities (e.g. coconut, beans and pulses) at the ACBF.

The Meeting was informed that the 6th ASEAN Cooperatives Business Forum (ACBF) was held on 29-30 November 2016 in Quezon City, Philippines. The ACBF aims to enhance collaboration among ASEAN countries through cooperatives; provide networking business forum among ASEAN cooperative leaders and global partners and promote and exhibit Cooperative Products through the conduct of Cooperative Trade Exposition.The Meeting noted that the 7th ACBF will be organized in Philippines in October/November 2017.

The Meeting congratulated AFOSP’s support to the work of ASWGAC in particular on the ASEAN Learning Route on Agricultural Cooperatives. The Meeting agreed to submit the proposal to conduct an Exhibition on Trade and Marketing of the ASEAN Agriculture Cooperatives Products in conjunction with the PrepSOM-39th AMAF and 39th AMAF Meeting to SOM-AMAF for consideration. The Meeting also requested Thailand to confirm with their SOM-AMAF Leader for approval on the proposal for exhibition.