



JOINT PRESS STATEMENT

The Twenty-Fourth Meeting of the ASEAN Directors-General of Immigration Departments and Heads of Consular Affairs Divisions of Ministries of Foreign Affairs (24th DGICM) and Its Related Meetings



25-26 August 2021 via videoconference

1. The 24th DGICM resumed its Meeting on 26 August 2021 via videoconference after its postponement in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic situation. It was chaired by H.E. Jaime H. Morente, Commissioner of the Bureau of Immigration, the Philippines and attended by the ASEAN Heads of Immigration, Consular Affairs Divisions of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, and officials from the ASEAN Secretariat.
2. The DGICM is a regular gathering of Heads of Immigration Departments and Heads of Consular Affairs Divisions of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of ASEAN Member States to discuss and coordinate regional cooperation on immigration and consular matters towards the achievement of ASEAN Community-building goals. Its Chairmanship is rotated in alphabetical order among ASEAN Member States.
3. The Meeting was preceded by the 4th ASEAN Heads of Major Immigration Checkpoints Forum (AMICF) and the 16th ASEAN Immigration Intelligence Forum (AIIF) that were convened on 25 August 2021. The 4th AMICF discussed mechanisms to develop the Foreign Terrorist Fighters (FTFs) Movement Database among ASEAN Member States, a proposal on the development of a communication channel, and noted the initiatives and programmes under the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework (ACRF) and its Implementation Plan to be co- led by the DGICM. The 16th AIIF agreed to adopt the Plan of Action (PoA) to Implement the Intelligence Data Sharing Protocol (IDSP), discussed the way forward for the Terms of Reference (ToR) of the ASEAN Immigration Intelligence



Meeting (AIIM), and updated the list of AIIF Contact Points and the Immigration 24/7 Hotline Focal Points.

4. The Meeting took note of the briefing on recent developments in ASEAN and updated on the visa exemption arrangement for ASEAN and Non-ASEAN Nationals. The ASEAN Member States exchanged views on national, regional, and international efforts on immigration, consular and border management matters amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.

5. The Meeting had fruitful discussions on the progress of DGICM initiatives, namely, (i) the implementation of the Guidelines on Consular Assistance by ASEAN Member States Missions in Third Countries to Nationals of Other ASEAN Member States; (ii) the way forward for the ASEAN Business Travel Card, the ASEAN Visa Portal, and the Establishment of ASEAN Immigration Focal Points to Facilitate the Repatriation of Illegal Migrants to Country of Origin; and (iii) the implementation of the ASEAN Lane at Major International Airports.

6. The Meeting also discussed the follow-up to the development of the new ASEAN Plan of Action (PoA) for Cooperation on Immigration Matters.

7. The Meeting adopted the Concept Paper on the Establishment of the DGICM + 3 Consultation.

8. The Meeting endorsed the Concept Paper on ASEAN Border Management Cooperation and agreed to submit it to the 15th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (AMMTC) for adoption.

9. The Meeting convened a session with the Chair of the ASEAN Head of Specialists Anti-Trafficking Units (HSU) under the Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC) and discussed the recommendation from the Emergency ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (AMMTC) on the possibility of establishing a "Special Task Force or HSU on People Smuggling."





10. The Meeting also exchanged views with the Chair of the ASEAN Connectivity Coordinating Community (ACCC) on the way forward for Initiative 13 of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) 2025.

11. The Meeting was briefed on the initiatives and programmes of the ACRF Implementation Plan to be co-led by the DGICM.

12. The Meeting welcomed the offer by Singapore to host the 25th DGICM and Its Related Meetings in 2022.

13. The Meeting was virtually held in the traditional spirit of ASEAN solidarity and cordiality and enjoyed the warm hospitality offered by the Government of the Philippines.

