

The 11th ASEAN and Japan High Level Officials Meeting
on Caring Societies, 3rd-5th December

Adopted Recommendations

Preamble

We, the participants representing health, social welfare and labour sectors of the ASEAN plus 3 countries at the 11th ASEAN & Japan High Level Officials Meeting on Caring Societies (hereafter referred to as the Meeting) held in Tokyo, Japan, on 3-5 December 2013, which carried the theme “Active Aging”;

Remembering that this year marks the 40th year since the relations between ASEAN and the Japanese Government began, and that we have kept cordial relationships throughout this time, aiming to further enhance our cooperations and build strategic partnerships in the future;

Acknowledging with appreciation the initiative of the Government of Japan to convene the ASEAN-Japan High-level Officials Meeting on Caring Societies since 2003, particularly this 11th Meeting as an effective platform of information sharing and exchange of views on the health, social welfare and labour aspects of “Active Aging”;

Also, acknowledging with appreciation the active initiatives by the Government of Japan for holding the “ASEAN-Japan Seminar, The Regional Cooperation for the Aging Society” in Jakarta this November, with hopes that these efforts will continue and promote further collaborations in the future;

Noting that aging is progressing worldwide, and by 2050 the population of age 60 years and over will reach 2 billion;

Recognizing that ASEAN countries will experience rapid aging in years to come, and face new challenges such as maintaining health, responding to welfare and

social security needs, prevention of isolation and poverty of the elderly that require urgent attention;

Considering that the current situation of aging in the health, labour and welfare sector and the promotion of measures related to aging in ASEAN countries vary, and that cultural and social backgrounds differ between ASEAN member states and Japan, therefore the current issues that are faced by each country may not be the same;

Also, noting the results of the discussions made by the “Study Group for Japan’s International Contributions to Active Aging.”

Agreements

We, the participants of the Meeting have agreed:

The proceedings and outcomes of this 11th Meeting should be reported to the respective Ministers and other Senior Officials in each country;

Japan, with the support of the ASEAN Secretariat, should report the proceedings and outcomes of this meeting to the ASEAN+3 Health Ministers and Senior Officials Meetings on Health Development (AHMM+3, SOMHD+3), ASEAN+3 Ministers and Senior Officials Meetings on Social Welfare and Development (AMMSWD+3, SOMSWD+3), and ASEAN+3 Labour Ministers and Senior Officials Meetings (ALMM+3, SLOM+3);

The promotion of collaborations for active aging with the ASEAN countries will be reaffirmed in the ASEAN-Japan Summit held in Tokyo this December.

Recommendations

We call upon all participants to:

1. take into consideration the needs of the elderly, in formulation of health, welfare and labor policies-recommendations to ensure that quality of life can be improved by maximizing health, social participation and social security as a person ages recognizing that women live longer than men
2. enhance the development of policy-recommendations for long-term care and health care and human resources for the elderly;
3. consider incorporating the needs of elderly into the policy-recommendations to be taken by the health and welfare sectors towards universal health coverage, recognizing that universal health coverage is an important and basic policy for active aging;
4. ensure that appropriate services are provided to the elderly, particularly services for the various problems facing the elderly including non-communicable diseases and dementia;
5. consider reorienting and building systems to support the elderly according to the current conditions in the community recognizing that urbanization is rapidly progressing in the ASEAN countries, and that the challenges for elderly policies differ between urban and rural areas;
6. reaffirm the roles played by the elderly, their families and the community including roles of volunteers for the elderly, and explore policies-recommendations to further enhance their capacities and participation;
7. incorporate elderly policies-recommendations into labour and occupational safety policies-recommendations, recognizing the importance of promoting social participation of the elderly, in light of utilizing skill, experience and capacities of the elderly as well as securing income, considering that there is a vast informal sector;
8. consider building policies-recommendations, systems and plans for creating an age-friendly society, that include considerations on economic sustainability, utilizing private sector resources, improving or making technical guidelines for facilities and personnel, and practical training;

9. improve data quality, availability, accuracy and timeliness on the needs specialized for the elderly for evidence based policy making, and consider appropriate methods for communicating to stakeholders for promoting active aging;
10. note the important leading role of the government for further coordinating the ministries and with local governments, and for promoting close partnerships between the relevant civil societies, academic research institutions, and the private sector, and also for continuing to exchange information on the current situations and good practices among the ASEAN plus 3 countries;
11. Finally, recognize that aging is a common challenge for the ASEAN plus 3 countries, and continue to promote co-operations by policy dialogue, technical cooperation, and human resource development and concerted efforts of relevant institutions.