

## **The 21<sup>st</sup> ASEAN and Japan High Level Officials Meeting on Caring Societies, November 28<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

### **Recommendations**

We, the participants representing the health, social welfare and labour sectors of the ASEAN, witnessed by observer countries including China and Republic of Korea, along with international, regional and related organizations and partners, at the 21<sup>st</sup> ASEAN and Japan High Level Officials Meeting on Caring Societies held in Oita Prefecture, Japan, from 28<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> November 2023, under the theme of “Towards building a society where everyone can live lively as being oneself in communities;”

#### **Preamble:**

Appreciate the continued initiative taken by the Government of Japan to hold these annual meetings since 2003 and acknowledge that this 21<sup>st</sup> Meeting has served as an effective platform to share knowledge and exchange views about the roles of stakeholders in health, social welfare and labour sectors, to promote an inclusive society toward achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

Reaffirming that the population of Asia is rapidly ageing, and the risk of experiencing declines in physical and mental capacities increases as s/he ages;

Acknowledging that it is one of the major challenges to build a society where each person can live lively as being oneself even getting older, and maintaining and strengthening physical and mental capacities are prerequisites to optimize one’s full potential throughout her/his life;

Recognizing various efforts taken by both public and private sectors including Oita Prefecture, Beppu City, Daycare Service Facility Raku, Green Garden Minami-Oita (Social Welfare Corporation Taishokai) and Social Welfare Organization Japan Sun Industries to support each person living healthy and lively as being oneself at community regardless of his/her age and with or without disabilities;

Cognisant of the diversity of political, economic and socio-cultural backgrounds among ASEAN Member States which can be different from Japan, and thus approaches to build a society in which all people including older people can live lively in their communities have to take into account local contexts.

**We have concluded the following recommendations:**

1. **Reaffirm** the importance of social participation of older people and its positive impact on health promotion including prevention of frailty and long-term care, and improvement of quality of life;
2. **Develop and implement** evidence-based policies aimed at maintaining and strengthening physical, mental and spiritual capacities for older people at community-level in close collaboration with public, private, religious and local providers to optimize their full potentials throughout their lives;
3. **Encourage** development of policies or programs aimed at promoting the health of employees in recognition of the importance of overall health and well-being at the workplace to keep the population healthy;
4. **Support** the collection of age-disaggregated data on health including active ageing and social economic data at national and local levels and analysis of outcomes and effectiveness of policies and programmes on ageing and welfare, and promote consultation with local and regional authorities to better understand areas of concern, challenges and opportunities;
5. **Promote** the use of welfare equipment and technology at long-term care facilities to reduce the physical burdens of caregivers and also to improve labour productivity, that can lead to providing quality care for older persons;
6. **Encourage** to promote the exchange of information and best practices among caregivers and service providers;
7. **Incorporate** the concerns of people with physical, and intellectual disabilities and mental and developmental disorders, bearing in mind that capacity can decline with age, and develop adaptive policies and programmes to ensure all people can live lively throughout their lives;
8. **Strengthen** cooperation and coordination across social welfare, health,

labour and other related sectors to ensure that people of all ages, regardless of their abilities, can live lively as being themselves in their communities;

9. **Continue** to enhance sharing of knowledge, experiences, good practices, and technological and social innovations across and within countries in the areas of social welfare, health and labour for healthy and active ageing by facilitating cross-sectoral and cross-organizational collaboration among the ASEAN Member States and Plus Three Countries, ASEAN Secretariat, WHO, ILO, ERIA, JICA and other related international and regional organizations and development partners.

**We further concluded that:**

- i. The proceedings and outcomes of this 21<sup>st</sup> Meeting will be reported to the respective ministers or other senior officials in each country, and through the relevant ASEAN sectors for consideration and appropriate actions to implement the above recommendations in accordance with their respective regional and national processes, policies, regulations and socio-economic contexts;
- ii. Japan, with the support of the ASEAN Secretariat, should report the proceedings and outcomes of this meeting to the ASEAN Plus Three Health Ministers and Senior Officials Meetings on Health Development (AHMM Plus Three/SOMHD Plus Three), ASEAN Plus Three Ministers and Senior Officials Meetings on Social Welfare and Development (AMMSWD Plus Three/SOMSWD Plus Three), and ASEAN Plus Three Labour Ministers or Senior Labour Official Meetings (ALMM Plus Three/SLOM Plus Three).