

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of ASEAN Ad Hoc Taskforce on Developing New Vision on Food, Agriculture and Forestry (ATF-FAF) towards 2020

**REMARKS**

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**Distinguished delegates from ASEAN Member States, FAO, GIZ, Experts, and the ASEAN Secretariat**

**Good Morning!**

It is my privilege to extend warmest welcome to all delegates from AMS, and to our partners FAO and GIZ as well as to all experts to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of ASEAN Ad Hoc Taskforce on developing New Vision on Food, Agriculture and Forestry (ATF-FAF) towards 2020. At this opportunity, I also would like to express my appreciation to FAO and GIZ that have supported this initiative, including organising this important Meeting.

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

During the 14<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit, our Head of Governments has signed the Declaration on the Roadmap for the ASEAN Community (2009-2015). In the implementation of relevant measures outlined in this Roadmap, good progress has been made in the area of food, agriculture and forestry sector. Good progress was observed in developing ASEAN agri-food standards, including food safety and quality assurance for enhancing intra- and extra-ASEAN trade and long-term competitiveness

of ASEAN's food, agriculture and forestry products. Time has been fast approaching towards the realisation of ASEAN Community-2015 and next steps need to be considered beyond 2015.

The 22<sup>nd</sup> ASEAN Summit held in April 2013 in Bandar Seri Begawan have tasked all ASEAN Community Councils to begin work on a post-2015 vision. During the 23<sup>rd</sup> ASEAN Summit, 9 October 2013, Bandar Seri Begawan, the ASEAN Leaders adopted the "Bandar Seri Begawan Declaration on the ASEAN Community's Post-2015 Vision".

In following up this guidance, the Special Meeting of SOM-34<sup>th</sup> AMAF agreed on the need to develop a vision, objectives and goals of the ASEAN Cooperation in Food, Agriculture and Forestry sectors towards 2020. The Terms of Reference has been developed and endorsed by SOM-AMAF in September 2013.

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

We understand that this stage is very important for the ASEAN Cooperation in Food, Agriculture and Forestry, which is also similar for other sectors, to review our works and achievements that have been made so far. Based on this progress, we need to consider on what should be done in the next stages of ASEAN's integration efforts related to our sector. This include good strategic ideas on how agriculture sector can maintain its relevance in the evolving regional architecture.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the ASEAN Task Force held in Jakarta in March 2014 had given a step to start this exercise. We understand that studies have been carried out to take stock on our cooperation. In this 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting, We will discuss the outcomes of these studies and consider on the recommendation for our senior officials response the challenges beyond 2015.

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

I wish we can have a fruitfull and productive discussion and would like to encourage active participation from all delegates.

Again, I on behalf of ASEAN would like to thank you to FAO and GIZ for valuable support to this initiave.

Thank you.