

**SUMMARY REPORT
OF
THE 7th MEETING OF ASEAN PLUS THREE EMERGENCY RICE RESERVE (APTERR) COUNCIL**

19 – 20 February 2019, Putrajaya, Malaysia

INTRODUCTION

1. The 7th Meeting of ASEAN Plus Three Emergency Rice Reserve (APTERR) Council was held on 19-20 February 2019 in Putrajaya, Malaysia. The Meeting was organised by the APTERR Secretariat and hosted by the Ministry of Agriculture and Agro-Based Industry of Malaysia.
2. The Meeting was attended by the members of the APTERR Council and the delegates from ASEAN Plus Three countries except Singapore due to unforeseen domestic circumstances. Representatives of the APTERR Secretariat were also present at the Meeting. The list of delegates appears in **ANNEX 1**.
3. The Meeting was co-chaired by Dr. Zunika Binti Mohamed, Deputy Secretary General (Policy) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Agro-based Industry of Malaysia and Mr. Yuichi Sato, Managing Director of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan.

OPENING SESSION

4. Dr. Zunika Binti Mohamed expressed her warmest welcome to all delegates to the 7th Meeting of APTERR Council. Then, she highlighted the achievements of the APTERR activities. Since the establishment in 2011, the APTERR has already distributed 23,920 MT of rice through Tier 3 programme for emergency and other humanitarian purposes in the member countries. Particularly, the Super Typhoon Haiyan in 2013-2014, Malaysia together with other APTERR members namely Thailand, China and Japan, provided rice assistance to the Philippines with the total amount of 6,730 MT. She emphasised the significance of the APTERR as a regional mechanism to enhance food security cooperation. Besides, she updated a food security situation in Malaysia. Recently, the country has faced a problem on microbial disease damaging a rice production. Malaysia hoped that the issue will be considered as one of the significant topics in any APTERR-related meetings or discussions. Before ending her remarks, she provided brief information concerning an agenda of the meeting. She lastly hoped that the meeting will strengthen the strategic cooperation on food security and reducing poverty among ASEAN Plus Three countries.

CLOSED SESSION

**Agenda Item 1: OPENING STATEMENT BY THE OUTGOING CO-CHAIRS OF
APTERR COUNCIL**

5. Mr. Savanh Hanephom, Deputy Director General of the Department of Planning and Finance, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Lao PDR, expressed his sincere thanks and appreciation to the Government of Malaysia as well as the APTERR Secretariat for a good

arrangement of the meeting. He also extended his thanks to the APTERR members for attending the meeting to their efforts and cooperation on making the APTERR activities a success. He emphasised that 2018 was an outstanding year of the APTERR as significant tasks including the financial contribution in the second phase and the implementation of Tier 1 and Tier 3 programme, were accomplished. He also expressed his gratitude to the Government of Japan and the Republic of Korea (ROK) for generous contributions to implement Tier 3 programme in Lao PDR during the floods in 2018. In his conclusion, he reiterated Lao PDR's commitment to continually play an active role in participating in the APTERR programmes and activities. With a close cooperation among our members, it would push forward the APTERR programmes in strengthening food security and promoting humanitarian assistances in the region for the long-term.

6. Ms. Baoying Zhu, Director of the Department of International Cooperation, Ministry Agriculture and Rural Affairs of the People's Republic of China, expressed her earnest gratitude to Malaysia as a host country and the APTERR Secretariat for their hard working on organising the meeting. She underlined the importance of APTERR mechanism for enhancing an agricultural cooperation under the ASEAN Plus Three framework. The APTERR plays a positive role in safeguarding regional food security and helping members to cope with food shortages caused by natural disasters. According to a successful signing of the Protocol to amend the Attachment 2 of the APTERR Agreement, she welcomed to see a strong guarantee for continuous and effective operation of the APTERR mechanism. As a responsible member of the ASEAN Plus Three, China has been actively participating in APTERR to fulfil the roles and responsibilities at the international stage. China has committed to cooperate as well as participate under the APTERR mechanism and to make greater contributions to improve food security in the region and advance a regional agricultural and rural development.

Agenda Item 2: REMARKS BY THE CO-CHAIRS OF THE APTERR COUNCIL

7. Dr. Zunika Binti Mohamed, a Co-Chair from Malaysia, showed her sincere appreciation to the APTERR Council for attending this Council Meeting. She emphasised the APTERR's milestones consisting a completion of the first-five year contribution to the APTERR Fund, a signing of the Protocol to amend the Attachment 2 of the APTERR Agreement to extend the second phase of financial contribution to support a continuity of the APTERR activities in strengthening food security in the region. She believed that the 2-day meeting will provide a platform for discussing among the members with the aims of reaching APTERR's milestones in the future.

8. Mr. Sato, a Co-Chair from Japan, expressed his gratefulness to be one of co-chairs of the meeting. He shared his background and experiences on involving with the establishment of APTERR since it was the East Asia Emergency Rice Reserve (EAERR). At present, the APTERR has become an independent and reliable organisation in the region in term of promoting food security. He encouraged all APTERR Council to actively participate in the meeting for the improvement of the APTERR activities.

Agenda Item 3: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

9. The Meeting adopted the agenda of the Meeting, which appears in **ANNEX 2**.

Agenda Item 4: BUSINESS ARRANGEMENT

10. The Meeting was held in plenary. The delegates were given a brief summary on the meeting programme and other arrangements for the Meeting.

Agenda Item 5: THE FINAL PERFORMANCE APPRAISAL OF THE APTERR GM

11. The Ad-hoc committee of the Final Performance Appraisal of the APTERR General Manager informed the Meeting of the outcome of the Final Performance Appraisal of the APTERR GM, Mr. Chanpithya Shimphee. The Statement of the Ad-hoc committee on final evaluation of APTERR GM and the presentation appear in **ANNEX 3** and **ANNEX 4**.

12. The discussion on the Final Performance Appraisal of the APTERR GM was held without the presence of the GM.

13. The Ad-hoc committee informed the Meeting regarding the performance appraisal processes and the evaluation result of the Final Performance Appraisal of the APTERR GM. The recommendation of the Ad-hoc committee was to renew the contract of the APTERR GM for another term of service from 11 May 2019 to 10 May 2022.

14. The Meeting agreed with the recommendation of the Ad-hoc committee to renew the contract of the APTERR GM for another term of service from 11 May 2019 to 10 May 2022.

15. The Meeting also requested the APTERR Secretariat to inform the APTERR Council from Singapore on the result of the APTERR Council regarding the decision to renew the contract of the APTERR GM for acknowledgement.

16. The Meeting advised the APTERR GM to submit a terminal report of current term and a 3-year work plan to the APTERR Council at the beginning of the next term.

Agenda Item 6: UPDATE ON THE CONTRIBUTIONS FOR ENDOWMENT FUND AND OPERATIONAL COST

17. The APTERR Secretariat reported on the contribution for the Endowment Fund (EF) and the annual contribution to the Operational Cost (OC). The document and presentation appear in **ANNEX 5** and **ANNEX 6**.

18. The Member Countries declared the commitment to support the APTERR by starting the annual contribution to the Operational Cost Account for the second five years period (2018 – 2022) once their internal clearances are ratified.

19. The Meeting noted the action of the APTERR Secretariat to keep the interests from the fixed account in the EF to generate more income as the interest rate of the fixed account is higher than those of saving accounts.

20. The Meeting noted that when the fixed account period ends in December 2019, the

Secretariat will propose the next plan to the APTERR Council.

21. The Meeting agreed that as long as the APTERR Parties instructed the transaction with “guarantee our”, if the deduction Operational Cost occurs, there is no need to fulfil the shortfalls. The APTERR Secretariat will only acknowledge receipt of the actual amount.

Agenda Item 7: REPORT ON REALISATION OF WORK PLAN AND BUDGET PLAN FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018

22. The APTERR Secretariat presented the report on the Realisation of Work Plan and Budget Plan for fiscal year 2018 (1 January - 31 December 2018). The documents, presentations and audited annual financial report appear in **ANNEX 7** to **ANNEX 9**, respectively.

23. The Meeting endorsed the realisation of Work Plan and Budget Plan for fiscal year 2018 (1 January - 31 December 2018).

24. The Meeting welcomed the implementation of the Tier 1 programmes between the Philippines and Japan of 10,000 MT of rice.

25. The Meeting noted that the total of 11,433 MT of rice was implemented under the Tier 3 programmes in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, the Philippines and Viet Nam which were contributed by Japan and the ROK. These programmes were completed in fiscal year 2018.

26. The Meeting noted that the ongoing Tier 3 programmes which were commenced in fiscal year 2018 in Lao PDR, Myanmar, and the Philippines will be continued in fiscal year 2019.

27. The Meeting noted that the Protocol to amend the Attachment 2 of the APTERR Agreement was signed at the 18th AMAF Plus Three Meeting. The Meeting also noted that eight APTERR Parties commenced their financial contributions for the second phase.

28. The representatives from China expressed their intention to continue to participate in the APTERR programmes implementation as a donor country to strengthen the cooperation on food security among the APTERR Parties.

Agenda Item 8: WORK PLAN AND ANNUAL OPERATIONAL BUDGET PROPOSAL FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019

29. The APTERR Secretariat presented the proposed Work plan and annual operational budget proposal for fiscal year 2019. The document and presentation appear in **ANNEX 10** and **ANNEX 11**.

30. The Meeting endorsed the Work plan and annual operational budget proposal for fiscal year 2019.

31. The Meeting advised the APTERR Secretariat to provide the APTERR members with a written note on the updated Tier 3 process for mutual understanding.

32. The Meeting suggested that the APTERR Secretariat seeks for more activities, and encouraged the APTERR Parties to submit proposal for new activities to the APTERR Secretariat.

33. The Meeting requested the APTERR Secretariat to compile and circulate the new proposals to the APTERR Council. The APTERR Secretariat may conduct an ad-hoc gathering to discuss the new activities with the APTERR Parties as may deem necessary.

34. The Meeting recommended the APTERR Secretariat to study the possibilities of developing the monitoring and evaluation system to assess the effectiveness of APTERR Programmes.

Agenda Item 9: THE 2nd PHASE OF FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION TO THE APTERR FUND

35. The APTERR Secretariat presented the report of the 2nd phase of financial contribution of the APTERR Fund. The document and presentation appear in **ANNEX 12** and **ANNEX 13**

36. The Meeting noted the processes of the 2nd phase of financial contribution to the APTERR Fund.

37. The Meeting agreed to expedite their internal clearances to deposit their instrument of ratifications to the Protocol to amend the Attachment 2 of the APTERR Agreement with the ASEAN Secretariat.

38. The Meeting noted the recommendation of the APTERR Secretariat for the APTERR parties whose ratifications to the Protocol is not necessary for their internal clearances to start the financial contribution to the second phase.

Agenda Item 10: THE IMPLEMENTATION OF APTERR TIER 1 PROGRAMME

39. The APTERR Secretariat presented an update of the implementation of APTERR Tier 1 programme. The document and presentation appear in **ANNEX 14** and **ANNEX 15**.

40. The Meeting noted of the APTERR's recommendation to urge the member countries to participate in Tier 1 programme, particularly as the demanding countries.

41. The representative from Japan expressed a sincere gratitude to the APTERR Secretariat for assisting the Tier 1 programme between the Philippines and Japan. This trial will help promote the implementation of Tier 1 programme in the region.

42. The representatives from Indonesia, Thailand, Viet Nam and the ROK reiterated their intention to cooperate and participate in Tier 1 programme as the supplying countries.

43. The Meeting encouraged the APTERR Secretariat to seek more participants for the

Tier 1 programme to further develop the programme as a crucial instrument to ensure food security in ASEAN region.

Agenda Item 11: REPORT ON APTERR TIER 3 PROGRAMMES

44. The representatives from Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Viet Nam reported on the Tier 3 programme implementation in their country under Japan and the ROK's contributions. The presentations appear in **ANNEX 16** to **ANNEX 20**.

45. The Meeting took note of the reports on the Tier 3 programme implementation for 225 MT of rice in Lao PDR and 500 MT of rice under Japan's contributions as well as 250 MT of rice in Cambodia, 500 MT of rice in Myanmar and 1,000 MT of rice under the ROK's contributions.

46. The Meeting recommended the APTERR Secretariat to undertake a study for maintaining the quality of the APTERR rice distributed to the people in the host country

Agenda Item 12: PROGRESS ON ONGOING APTERR TIER 3 PROGRAMMES

47. The representatives from the APTERR Secretariat, Lao PDR and Myanmar updated on the implementation of the ongoing Tier 3 programmes in 2019. The presentations appear in **ANNEX 21** to **ANNEX 23**, respectively.

48. The Meeting welcomed the progress of the ongoing Tier 3 programme implementation undertaken by the APTERR Secretariat for the pre-positioned stockpiled rice system and the release of APTERR rice in Lao PDR and Myanmar respectively.

49. The Meeting took note of a sincere gratitude and appreciation to the Government of Japan for the contributions of 560 MT of rice to the Philippines and 300 MT of rice to Myanmar under the pre-positioned stockpiled rice system as well as to the Government of the ROK for the contribution of each 500 MT of rice to Lao PDR and Myanmar under the pre-positioned stockpiled rice system and 1,000 MT of rice to Lao PDR and 1,300 MT of rice for an urgent request.

50. The Meeting noted and appreciated Japan's initiative to introduce the utilisation of pre-cooked rice for enhancing the Tier 3 programme implementation. The presentation appears in **ANNEX 24**.

51. The Meeting welcomed Japan's new initiative. The Meeting also advised the APTERR Secretariat to assure on a possibility of using pre-cooked rice in compliance with the Rules and Procedures of Release and Replenishment of Rice Reserves.

Agenda Item 13: OTHER MATTERS

52. The representative from Japan informed the Meeting on a secondment of new Japanese

Expert Mr. Kenji Okuhira from the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan to the APTERR Secretariat starting from April 2019. He will be a successor of Mr. Yoshiharu Toeda whose term will be terminated in the end of March 2019. The Meeting extended the appreciation to Mr. Toeda for his excellent work.

Agenda Item 14: DATE AND VENUE OF THE 8th MEETING OF APTERR COUNCIL

53. The Meeting noted that the 8th Meeting of APTERR Council would be hosted by the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar in Nay Pyi Taw around February or March 2020. The APTERR Secretariat, in collaboration with Myanmar, would confirm the date and venue of the meeting in due course.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

54. The Meeting was held in the spirit of the ASEAN Plus Three co-operation and cordiality.

20 February 2019, Putrajaya, Malaysia