

**SUMMARY REPORT
OF
THE 6th MEETING OF ASEAN PLUS THREE EMERGENCY RICE RESERVE (APTERR) COUNCIL**

13 – 14 March 2018, Vientiane, Lao PDR

INTRODUCTION

1. The 6th Meeting of ASEAN Plus Three Emergency Rice Reserve (APTERR) Council was held on 13-14 March 2018 in Vientiane, Lao PDR. The Meeting was organised by the APTERR Secretariat and hosted by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) of Lao PDR.

2. The Meeting was attended by the members of the APTERR Council and the delegates from ASEAN Plus Three countries except Indonesia due to unforeseen domestic circumstances. Representatives of the ASEAN Secretariat, the ASEAN Food Security Reserve Board (AFSRB) Secretariat and the APTERR Secretariat were also present at the Meeting. The list of delegates appears in **ANNEX 1**.

3. The Meeting was co-chaired by Mr. Savanh Hanephom, Deputy Director General of the Department of Planning and Finance, MAF, Lao PDR, and Mrs. Ma Hongtao, Deputy Director General of the Department of International Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture, the People's Republic of China.

OPENING SESSION

4. H.E. Thongphath Vongmany, Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, Lao PDR, expressed his sincere and warmest welcome to all delegates to the 6th Meeting of APTERR Council. Then, he emphasised on food security and climate change as the world's greatest challenges which are required an urgent response. He urged the Meeting on a strong coordination and cooperation among the member countries as well as government institutions and local communities to fight with those emerged challenges. Meanwhile, he updated the Meeting on a food security situation in Lao PDR. The most frequent hazards occurring in Lao PDR are annual flash floods and drought conditions. Recently, the country has also faced an outbreak of yellow-spine bamboo locusts which destroyed thousands hectares of crops in the northern provinces of Lao PDR. The MAF in collaboration with other countries as well as international organisations has taken a number of important steps to better address and mainstream disaster risk reduction and climate change into agriculture planning and programming. In his conclusion, he hoped that the 6th Meeting of APTERR Council will strengthen the strategic cooperation to handle with those emergency situations in the regions and fulfil the vision and goals of food, agriculture and forestry sector of ASEAN Plus Three.

CLOSED SESSION

**Agenda Item 1: OPENING STATEMENT BY OUTGOING CO-CHAIR
REPRESENTING THE HOST COUNTRY OF THE 6th MEETING OF
APTERR COUNCIL**

5. Due to the absence of the APTERR Council from Indonesia as an outgoing Co-Chair

of the 5th Meeting of APTERR Council, Mr. Gyuil Choi, Deputy Director of Food Grain Policy Division, the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs of the Republic of Korea (ROK), representing the Co-Chair of the 5th Meeting of APTERR Council, expressed his sincere thanks to all APTERR member countries and the APTERR Secretariat for the outstanding contribution to promote an advancement of APTERR. He highlighted the achievement of the APTERR during a first five-year establishment. At present, the APTERR has been promptly responding to food emergency situations including natural disasters and calamities while working on addressing poverty issues in the region. Such excellent work led APTERR to solidify its position as a regional food reserve system in the international community only after five years of its foundation. As a responsible member of the ASEAN Plus Three, the ROK has been actively participating in APTERR to fulfil the roles and responsibilities at the international stage. The ROK committed to carry out those roles and responsibilities in advancing the regional food security, improving nutrition for the poor as well as addressing a poverty issue.

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

6. Mr. Savanh Hanephom, a Co-Chair from Lao PDR, extended his warmest welcome to all participants to the Meeting and thanked the APTERR Secretariat for the support and commitment rendered to make this event become a reality. The APTERR Council Meeting is held annually with the aims of providing a strong support for the development of regional cooperation standing on humanitarian ground. This time, Lao PDR was given the opportunity to host the 6th Meeting, where it provided an avenue for reviewing the development in APTERR activities since the last meeting held in Bali, Indonesia in 2017. This Meeting provided an opportunity for all participants to exchange ideas on a provision of rice to the victims, strengthening food security, management of the release and replenishment of APTERR stocks, sharing knowledge and expertise of the implementation to release APTERR stocks and monitoring and assessment of food emergency in the region.

7. Mrs. Ma Hongtao, a Co-Chair from China, expressed her gratitude for a warm hospitality provided by Lao PDR and efficient works by the APTERR Secretariat on organising the Meeting. As an important agricultural cooperation mechanism under ASEAN Plus Three Framework, APTERR is the only existing regional cooperation that aims at safeguarding regional food security through intraregional food assistance. Since 2013, APTERR with a joint effort of the members, has helped ASEAN Plus Three countries in addressing food shortage caused by the natural disaster and other emergencies. The APTERR Parties have been working closely on the release of rice reserves under Tier 3 programmes and have delivered impressive result. This Meeting would deliberate on the amendment of the APTERR Agreement, which was important for ensuring the long-term operation of the APTERR Secretariat and the mechanism. China will support on the institutional building of the APTERR and active participant in the APTERR activities. Lastly, China is considering on its engagement in the Tier 3 programme and will work closely with the APTERR Secretariat on this matter.

Agenda Item 3: ADOPTION OF AGENDA

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

Agenda Item 4: BUSINESS ARRANGEMENT

9. 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: UPDATE ON THE CONTRIBUTIONS FOR ENDOWMENT FUND AND OPERATIONAL COST

10. 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 3** and **ANNEX 4**.

11. The Meeting 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.

12. The Meeting agreed that, for the first five years and future phases, as long as the member countries instructed the transaction with “guarantee our”, if the deduction Operational Cost occurs, there is no need to fulfil the shortfalls.

13. The Meeting noted that the future contribution related to Tier 3 programmes under the Special Project Account will be executed with “BEN” (beneficiary) transfer instruction. This is to ensure that the recipient parties will be responsible for all transfer charges.

14. The representatives from Brunei Darussalam informed the Meeting that their financial contribution to the Operational Cost of fiscal year 2017 will be transferred by the end of March 2018.

Agenda Item 6: REPORT ON REALISATION OF WORK PLAN AND BUDGET PLAN FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017

15. The APTERR Secretariat presented the report on the Realisation of Work Plan and Budget Plan for FY 2017 (1 January - 31 December 2017). The documents and presentations appear in **ANNEX 5** to **ANNEX 6**.

16. The Meeting endorsed the realisation of Work Plan and Budget Plan for fiscal year 2017 (1 January - 31 December 2017).

17. The Meeting noted the development of the Tier 3 programmes and the initiative from the ROK as the donor country of the Tier 3 programmes.

18. The representatives from China expressed their intention to look into possibility of participating in the Tier 1 and Tier 3 programmes to encourage the cooperation on food security among the APTERR Parties.

Agenda Item 7: WORK PLAN AND ANNUAL OPERATIONAL BUDGET PROPOSAL FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018

19. The APTERR Secretariat presented the proposed Work plan and annual operational budget proposal for fiscal year 2018. The document and presentation appear in **ANNEX 7** and **ANNEX 8**.

20. The Meeting endorsed the Work plan and annual operational budget proposal for fiscal year 2018.

21. The Meeting commended the APTERR Secretariat for exercising prudence and working within the budget for the first phase. The Meeting urged the APTERR Secretariat to continue to do so for the next phase for 2018 – 2022.

22. The Meeting expressed the gratitude to the government of Thailand for the continuous in-kind contribution to the APTERR Secretariat.

23. The Meeting noted and welcomed that Japan and the Philippines have begun concrete discussion toward making a Tier 1 contract on an experimental basis, and that Japan is considering improvement on its Tier 3 Programmes to make them more effective as a tool against emergency and for poverty alleviation.

Agenda Item 8: THE DRAFT PROTOCOL TO AMEND THE ATTACHMENT 2 OF THE APTERR AGREEMENT

24. The Meeting noted the ASEAN Secretariat information on the progress to develop the draft Protocol to amend the Attachment 2 of the APTERR Agreement which appear as **ANNEX 9** to **ANNEX 11**.

25. The Meeting expressed their desire to sign the protocol at 18th AMAF Plus Three Meeting, but noted that procedures under SOM-AMAF Plus Three are required for this to take place. The final draft protocol appears as **ANNEX 10**.

26. The Meeting requested ASEAN Secretariat and APTERR Secretariat to send an official letter to inform member countries on the finalisation of the protocol for internal procedures purposes.

Agenda Item 9: REPORT ON APTERR TIER 3 PROGRAMMES

27. The representatives from the Philippines and Lao PDR reported on the Tier 3 programme implementation in their country under Japan's Fiscal Year 2015 contribution. 225 metric tons of donated rice was distributed to people affected by an emergency in Mindanao, the Philippines while 225 metric tons of donated rice provided for people affected by floods in Lao PDR. The presentations appear in **ANNEX 12** and **ANNEX 13**.

28. The Meeting took note of the reports on the Tier 3 programme implementation in the Philippines and Lao PDR.

Agenda Item 10: PROGRESS ON ONGOING APTERR TIER 3 PROGRAMMES

29. The representatives from Cambodia, Myanmar, and Viet Nam reported the Meeting on the Tier 3 programmes implementation in their countries. The presentations appear in **ANNEX 14** to **ANNEX 16** respectively.

30. The Meeting took note of the progress on Tier 3 programme implementation of 250 metric tons in Cambodia under Japan's FY 2015, 500 metric tons under ROK's FY 2016 contribution and 500 metric tons under Japan' FY 2016 in Myanmar, and 10,000 metric tons under ROK's FY2017 contribution in Viet Nam and expressed sincere thanks to the government of Japan and the ROK for their contributions to Tier 3 programme.

31. The representative from the ROK thanked the governments of Myanmar and Cambodia as well as the APTERR Secretariat for the impressive outcomes of the Tier 3 programme implementation. The ROK hoped that the remaining quantity of rice could be delivered to people in need effectively. For the case of Viet Nam, the ROK expected that the delivery of the committed rice will be completed within March 2018.

32. The representative from Japan informed the Meeting on their continuity to support the Tier 3 programme. Japan will shortly submit a proposal for the FY2017 contribution to Tier 3 programme to the APTERR Secretariat to commence the programme implementation.

Agenda Item 11: OTHER MATTERS

33. The APTERR Secretariat presented the Meeting with the Terminal Report of the First Phase of Financial Contribution to the APTERR Funds (2013 – 2017). The document and presentation appear in **ANNEX 17** and **ANNEX 18**.

34. The Meeting suggested the APTERR Secretariat to review the Terminal Report with additional details of Tier 3 programmes as the major activities of the APTERR Secretariat. The challenges and future development of the Tier 3 programmes were mentioned as the additional contents of the Terminal Report.

35. The APTERR Secretariat will develop the Terminal Report with comments and suggestions from the Meeting, and submit to the APTERR Council for acknowledgement by the end of March 2018.

Agenda Item 12: DATE AND VENUE OF THE 7th MEETING OF APTERR COUNCIL

36. The Meeting noted that the 7th Meeting of APTERR Council would be hosted by the Government of Malaysia. The Meeting suggested that the next meeting should be held around February or March 2019. The APTERR Secretariat, in collaboration with Malaysia, would confirm the date and venue of the meeting in due course.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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