

**SUMMARY REPORT
OF
THE 10th MEETING OF ASEAN PLUS THREE EMERGENCY RICE RESERVE (APTERR) COUNCIL
25 March 2022, Singapore
Video Conference**

INTRODUCTION

1. The 10th Meeting of ASEAN Plus Three Emergency Rice Reserve (APTERR) Council was held on 25 March 2022 via video conference under the extraordinary circumstances due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Meeting was organised by the APTERR Secretariat and hosted by the Singapore Food Agency (SFA) of Singapore.
2. The Meeting was attended by the members of the APTERR Council and the delegates from ASEAN Plus Three countries. Representatives from the ASEAN Secretariat, the ASEAN Food Security Reserve Board (AFSRB) Secretariat, the ASEAN Food Security Information System (AFSIS) 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. Kevin Khng, Senior Director of International Relations Division of SFA, and Mr. Taira Matsumoto, Director General for Crop Production Policy Department, Crop Production Bureau, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) of Japan.

OPENING SESSION

4. Mr. Ryan Lim, Manager, SFA, as the Master of Ceremony warmly welcomed all delegates to the 10th Meeting of APTERR Council and mentioned the administrative arrangements for a smooth proceeding during the virtual meeting.

CLOSED SESSION

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

5. Atty. Judy Carol L. Dansal, Administrator of the National Food Authority (NFA) of the Philippines expressed her warmest opening message to all APTERR Council members, the APTERR Secretariat, and distinguished delegates. She first congratulated Singapore as the host country for successfully hosting the virtual 10th Meeting of APTERR Council amid an intense COVID-19 situation. Over 11 years of mechanism, the APTERR's objectives have been emphasised on the needs to further strengthen solidarity, support, and cooperation to move together towards sustainable food security in the ASEAN Plus Three region. The mechanism has been crucial to ensure food security particularly since people have been frequently confronted with extreme and unprecedented challenges from disastrous calamities and the COVID-19 pandemic. Still, she reiterated a significance of developing long-term sustainable strategies for better implementation of APTERR mechanism in a timely manner to efficiently and effectively tackle food security-related challenges and secure sustainable livelihoods. To conclude, she thanked the APTERR Council members and the APTERR Secretariat for the great opportunity accorded to her to hold the chairmanship of APTERR Council for 2021 and

extended her earnest appreciation to Singapore and the APTERR Secretariat for assistance and support in organising the meeting. Her Opening Message appears in **ANNEX 2.**

6. Ms. Liu Jiang, Division Director of Asian and African Affairs, Department of International Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs of P.R. China, delivered her thankful remarks to the APTERR Council members for the great support to the Co-chairs at the meeting in 2021 and expressed her congratulations to Singapore and the APTERR Secretariat for elaborate arrangement of the 10th Meeting of APTERR Council. As an important regional mechanism, the APTERR has been playing a significant role in strengthening food security, reducing poverty, and eradicating malnutrition. Particularly, since the effects of unprecedented pandemics have been continuing, she believed the APTERR mechanism would grow more vital. P.R. China looked forward to the closer collaboration with the APTERR members in various forms to ensure food security in the region. At last, she congratulated the new General Manager (GM) of the APTERR Secretariat with the will of continued support and cooperation to achieve more outcomes for years to come. Her Opening Statement appears in **ANNEX 3.**

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

7. The Co-chair from Singapore expressed his warm greetings and pleasure to be hosting the 10th Meeting of APTERR Council as well as co-chairing the meeting with Japan. He highlighted the coming into force of the Protocol to the APTERR Amendment in December 2021 as a positive and important milestone to the longer-term operations of APTERR. In this regard, he strongly urged the APTERR Council members to approve the extension of financial contribution to the operating cost for the third phase to support the role of APTERR in overcoming food shortages and ensuring food security in the region. He also conveyed his thanks to the current GM, Mr. Chanpithya Shimphee, for his significant contribution to the APTERR during the last three years and extended a warm welcome to the incoming GM, Mr. Choomjet Karnjanakesorn. In his conclusion, he expressed his appreciation to the APTERR Secretariat for the help and support in organising the meeting. His Remarks appears in **ANNEX 4.**

8. The Co-chair from Japan expressed his great pleasure to become the Co-chair of the 10th Meeting of APTERR Council. He then conveyed his sincere gratitude to the APTERR Secretariat and Singapore, as the host country, for their hard works in preparation for the meeting. His thanks were also extended to all APTERR member countries for their effort and cooperation resulting in the great success of APTERR programmes. Amid the prolonged COVID-19 situation, he emphasised an importance for the APTERR Council members to work and discuss together the ways to cope with the imminent large-scale disaster in the region. In regard to the frequent occurrences of natural disasters in recent years, it has been proved that APTERR was crucial for regional food security which should be proactively involved by the member countries. He further added that Japan intended to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through the APTERR programmes in order to realise sustainable societies. Furthermore, he wished the success of Tier 1 extension between the Philippines and Japan in October 2021 would expand to other member countries as a practical and effective model. Before closing his Remarks, he reiterated that Japan altogether with the member countries would continue supporting APTERR for further development. His Remarks appears in **ANNEX 5.**

Agenda Item 3: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

9. The Meeting adopted the agenda of the meeting, which appears in **ANNEX 6**.

Agenda Item 4: BUSINESS ARRANGEMENT

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

Agenda Item 5: UPDATE ON THE STATUS OF THE ENDOWMENT FUND AND THE CONTRIBUTION FOR THE OPERATIONAL COST

11. The APTERR Secretariat reported on the contribution for the Endowment Fund (EF) and the annual contribution to the Operational Cost (OC). The document and the presentation appear in **ANNEX 7** to **ANNEX 8**.

12. The Meeting noted the update on the status of EF and OC contributions and urged the remaining APTERR Parties to continue the OC contribution for fiscal year 2022. In relation to this, the representative from Indonesia informed the Meeting that Indonesia's OC contribution for fiscal year 2022 has been an ongoing process.

Agenda Item 6: REPORT ON REALISATION OF WORK PLAN AND BUDGET PLAN FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021

13. The APTERR Secretariat presented the report on the realisation of work plan and budget plan for fiscal year 2021 (1 January - 31 December 2021). The document, presentation, and audited annual financial report appear in **ANNEX 9** to **ANNEX 11**.

14. The Meeting endorsed the realisation of work plan and budget plan for fiscal year 2021.

15. The Meeting noted with appreciation Japan and the Republic of Korea (ROK)'s Tier 3 contributions to strengthen food security in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and the Philippines and welcomed the extension of Tier 1 programme between the Philippines and Japan for another 3-year period.

Agenda Item 7: WORK PLAN AND ANNUAL OPERATIONAL BUDGET PROPOSAL FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022

16. The APTERR Secretariat presented the proposed work plan and annual operational budget proposal for fiscal year 2022. The document and presentation appear in **ANNEX 12** to **ANNEX 13**.

17. The Meeting endorsed the work plan and annual operational budget proposal for fiscal year 2022.

18. The Meeting recommended the APTERR Secretariat to ensure a sufficient utilisation of operational fund to cover all APTERR activities which may possibly increase during the year due to the transition of the new GM and new initiatives proposed by the members.

19. The representative from Japan expressed its intention to continuously support the Tier 3 programme by contributing USD 700,000 for fiscal year 2022.

20. With ambition to achieve the SDG's Goals, the representative from Japan introduced the new initiative "School Distribution Programme" as a part of pre-positioned stockpiled rice system under Tier 3 programme targeting to support school students in vulnerable areas. The presentation appears in **ANNEX 14**.

21. The Meeting welcomed Japan's new initiative on providing rice assistance to mainly the children in an effort to alleviate poverty and hunger under Tier 3 programme. Meanwhile, the representative from the Philippines expressed an interest in Japan's "School Distribution Programme" and would further study on a process of implementation to make the programme a successful operation.

**Agenda Item 8: MATTERS ARISING FROM 20th SPECIAL SOM AMAF+3
(Follow Up of Indonesia's Initiatives on "Strengthening the Role
of APTERR in Supporting Regional Food Security After 10 Years
of Service")**

22. The representative from Indonesia presented Indonesia's initiative on "Strengthening the Role of APTERR in Supporting Regional Food Security After 10 Years of Service". The presentation was a follow-up of the 20th Special SOM AMAF+3 in August 2021 that the APTERR Council was assigned to further discuss Indonesia's proposal and provide their feedback to SOM-AMAF+3 for consideration. The concept note and presentation appear in **ANNEX 15** to **ANNEX 16**.

23. The representative from Singapore noted that the APTERR member countries would need time to review Indonesia's proposal since it was circulated recently. As such, the APTERR Secretariat could carry out consultations inter-sessionally over email to allow the member countries to conduct internal consultations before submitting their views to the APTERR Secretariat for consolidation. In this regard, the Meeting agreed and recommended the APTERR Secretariat to conduct such inter-sectional consultations among the APTERR members countries via email to discuss on Indonesia's initiative. Thereafter, a working meeting for further discussion might be requested to be conducted by the APTERR Secretariat as deemed necessary. The Meeting also noted that detailed discussions would need to obtain an agreement from the APTERR member countries before including the proposal in the agenda of the next SOM AMAF+3 meeting.

24. The representative from Japan commented that there were many tasks to be addressed under the current APTERR scheme, such as implementing Tier 1 cooperation and strengthening Tier 3 mechanism.

**Agenda Item 9: THE 3rd PHASE OF FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION TO THE
OPERATIONAL COST OF THE APTERR FUND**

25. The APTERR Secretariat presented the 3rd phase of financial contribution to the OC of the APTERR Fund. The document and presentation appear in **ANNEX 17** to **ANNEX 18**.

26. The Meeting unanimously approved the 3rd phase of financial contribution to the OC of the APTERR Fund (2023-2027) and congratulated the APTERR Secretariat on starting the new phase of financial contribution in supporting the continuity of APTERR operation.

27. The Meeting agreed that a commencement of the 3rd phase contribution would start from the beginning of January 2023 onwards.

Agenda Item 10: REPORT ON THE RECRUITMENT OF THE GENERAL MANAGER (GM)

28. The APTERR Secretariat reported on the recruitment of the GM of the APTERR Secretariat and presented the Contract Agreement. The document, presentation, and the Contract Agreement appear in **ANNEX 19** to **ANNEX 21**.

29. The Meeting endorsed the result of the new GM recruitment and the Contract Agreement. The Meeting also adopted the proposal unanimously to express deep thankfulness to the current GM, Mr. Shimpalee, for his great efforts and hard works contributed to the APTERR during his tenures and congratulated Mr. Karnjanakesorn as the newly appointed GM.

Agenda Item 11: PROPOSED A 3-YEAR FRAMEWORK PLAN (2022-2025) OF THE NEWLY APPOINTED GM

30. The newly appointed GM presented his proposed 3-Year Framework Plan for 2022-2025. The document and presentation appear in **ANNEX 22** to **ANNEX 23**.

31. The Meeting endorsed the newly appointed GM's 3-Year Framework Plan for 2022-2025 with appreciation and looked forward for future cooperation with him.

Agenda Item 12: REPORT ON APTERR PROGRAMMES

32. The representatives from the APTERR Secretariat reported the implementation of Tier 1 programme in 2021 while the representatives from Myanmar and the Philippines presented the implementation of Tier 3 programme in their countries. The document and presentations appear in **ANNEX 24** to **ANNEX 27**.

33. Pursuant to an accomplishment of extension of Tier 1 programme between the Philippines and Japan for the 2nd phase (2021-2024), the Meeting encouraged other APTERR member countries to participate in Tier 1 programme for safeguarding country's food security.

34. The Meeting appreciated the successful implementation of Japan's 750-MT rice, which contributed in a form of in-cash contribution, and 2-MT precooked rice to generously help people affected by the prolonged COVID-19 pandemic in Myanmar and the Philippines respectively. The Meeting also noted that due to the foreign exchange rate and domestic rice price, Myanmar could purchase additional 134.8 MT of local rice from the proposed plan of 750 MT, bringing the total amount of rice to 884.8 MT.

35. Representatives from Myanmar and the Philippines expressed grateful thanks to the Government of Japan for generous contributions under Tier 3 programme.

Agenda Item 13: UPDATE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF APTERR PROGRAMMES

36. The representatives from the APTERR Secretariat, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, and the Philippines updated the ongoing implementation of APTERR programmes. The document and presentations appear in **ANNEX 28** to **ANNEX 33**.

37. The Meeting noted that the call for new Tier 1 and 3 programmes for fiscal year 2022 have opened for the APTERR member countries since February 2022 to strengthen food security amid emergency and reduce the potential risk of food insecurity in the future.

38. The Meeting acknowledged with appreciation the successful release of 300-MT rice contributed by the ROK for COVID-19 in Cambodia and took note of the ongoing preposition programmes under Tier 3 in Lao PDR with 700-MT rice from the ROK and 300-MT rice from Japan, in Myanmar with 300-MT rice and 2-MT precooked rice from Japan, and in the Philippines with 300-MT rice from Japan which would set to be soon released for people affected by super typhoon Rai in Region VII and CARAGA region during April-May 2022.

39. Representatives from Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, and the Philippines expressed their profound gratitude and sincere appreciation to the Governments of Japan and the ROK for their continued and benevolent rice contributions under Tier 3 programme.

40. The representative from Japan reiterated it would continue the voluntary contribution to Tier 3 programme including precooked rice utilisation and “School Distribution Programme”, and also informed they were considering more flexible scheme through Tier 3 programme for future APTERR activities.

Agenda Item 14: OTHER MATTERS

41. The Meeting welcomed the message of appreciation for the current GM, Mr. Shimphalee, delivered by the representative from the Philippines. The thankful message appears in **ANNEX 34**.

Agenda Item 15: DATE AND VENUE OF THE 11th MEETING OF APTERR COUNCIL

42. The Meeting noted that the 11th Meeting of APTERR Council hosted by the Government of the ROK would be held virtually in the first quarter of 2023 and the specific date would be confirmed in the second half of this year. The APTERR Secretariat in collaboration with the ROK would announce the details of the meeting in due course.

Agenda Item 16: ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

43. The Meeting took note that the summary report of the 10th Meeting of APTERR Council would be adopted ad-referendum.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

44. The Meeting expressed a heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to Singapore and the APTERR Secretariat for excellent arrangement of the virtual 10th Meeting of APTERR Council amid a hardship posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

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