

## Joint Statement between ASEAN and China on Tourism Cooperation

We, the Heads of State/Government of the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the People's Republic of China, gathered at the 20<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-China Summit in Manila on 13 November 2017:

**RECALLING** both sides' commitment to enhance cooperation and activities between ASEAN and China, with a view to boosting two-way tourist visits, as stated in the Joint Statement of the 19<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-China Summit to Commemorate the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of ASEAN-China Dialogue Relations in Vientiane, Lao People's Democratic Republic on 7 September 2016;

**RECOGNISING** the strategic importance of the tourism industry in promoting greater people-to-people contact and sustainable socio-economic growth, and in fostering mutual understanding and regional stability;

**RECOGNISING** further the diversity in cultures, economy, and the complementary strengths, which would benefit the tourism development of ASEAN and China in the pursuit of improved quality of life, peace and prosperity;

**EMPHASISING** the need to strengthen, deepen and broaden cooperation in tourism between ASEAN and China, including between the private sectors in light of the complementary nature of their tourism products; and

### **Agreed to, on the basis of equality and mutual benefit:**

1. **ESTABLISH** a high-level cooperation mechanism between relevant tourism authorities, to be convened on a regular basis;

2. **COOPERATE** in facilitating travel and tourist visits, and sharing of data and tourism statistics;

3. **ENCOURAGE** greater flows of tourists between ASEAN and China through joint promotion campaigns, including activities carried out by the ASEAN-China Centre;

4. **SUPPORT** the development of quality tourism through, where appropriate, the promotion of tourism industry standards and programmes for sustainable tourism;

5. **SUPPORT** the participation of business communities and other tourism segments in travel marts, exhibitions and tourism festivals;

6. **ENCOURAGE** the strengthening of cooperation linkages among the education and training institutions in areas such as tourism information exchange, and human resource development;

7. **FACILITATE** two-way traffic between and beyond ASEAN and China and further improve and liberalize air connectivity; and

8. **FACILITATE** and promote seamless connectivity through cruise and yacht tourism so as to increase visitorship between ASEAN and China.

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