

Maritime Cooperation in ASEAN

Introduction

ASEAN recognises the multi-faceted nature of maritime issues and therefore commits to a holistic, integrated and comprehensive approach to address them. This paper is developed with the purpose of outlining the ongoing efforts in enhancing maritime cooperation and highlight the recent developments under the thirteen ASEAN mechanisms across the three pillars dealing with maritime issues.

I. ASEAN Foreign Ministers Meeting (AMM)/ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting (ASEAN SOM)

- The ASEAN Foreign Ministers renewed their commitment to further engage in regional maritime cooperation through the ASEAN Declaration on Cooperation in Search and Rescue of Persons and Vessels in Distress at Sea that was issued in Ha Noi on 27 October 2010. The Declaration prescribes that the ASEAN Member States will “*strengthen and where necessary develop coordinated approach, and create or upgrade regional policies, operational mechanism, plans and communication systems to prepare for and ensure rapid and effective response to distress situations*”.
- The Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC) concluded in 2002 constitutes a significant instrument in promoting trust, confidence building and cooperation between ASEAN Member States and China in the South China Sea, thereby contributing to peace, stability and maritime security in the region. The ASEAN–China Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) on the DOC and the ASEAN-China Joint Working Group (JWG) on the DOC provide institutional support for the implementation of the DOC.
- To date, the implementation of the DOC has been progressing well with various projects and activities being implemented, as outlined in the annual work plans. The Work Plan for 2016-2018 was endorsed at the 14th ASEAN-China SOM on the DOC in Guiyang, China in May 2017 which includes areas of cooperation such search and rescue, safety of navigation and communication at sea, maritime scientific research and marine environmental protection. The ASEAN Foreign Ministers also adopted a *Joint Statement on the Full and Effective Implementation of the DOC* at the PMC Session with China on 25 July 2016 in Vientiane to reaffirm the importance of the DOC in maintaining peace and stability in the region.
- In order to create conducive environments for peace and stability in the region as well as for the COC consultations, ASEAN and China have operationalised the agreed early-harvest measures, including (i) *Guidelines for Hotline*

Communications among Senior Officials of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs (MFA) of ASEAN Member States and China in Response to Maritime Emergencies, and (ii) *Joint Statement on the Application of the Code for Unplanned Encounters at Sea (CUES) in the South China Sea*, which were adopted by the Leaders at the ASEAN-China Commemorative Summit on 7 September 2016 in Vientiane. The MFA-to-MFA Hotline in Response to Maritime Emergencies in the Implementation of the DOC in the South China Sea was successfully tested in April 2017. Meanwhile, an ASEAN-China Joint Maritime Exercise had been agreed between the militaries to take place in due course.

- ASEAN and China Leaders had also adopted the Declaration for a Decade of Coastal and Marine Environmental Protection in the South China Sea (2017-2027) at the 20th ASEAN-China Summit in November 2017.
- The framework for the COC was adopted by ASEAN-China Foreign Ministers at the Post-Ministerial Conference Plus One (PMC+1) Session with China in August 2017 and followed by the announcement of the official start of negotiations on the COC by the Leaders at the 20th ASEAN-China Summit in November 2017. In line with the leaders' decision, the 23rd ASEAN-China JWG-DOC held in Nha Trang, Viet Nam on 1 – 2 March 2018 discussed and reached agreement on a number of working approaches towards the COC negotiations, including those on the draft COC text. Accordingly, ASEAN Member States and China will proceed to the negotiation of the COC draft text from the 24th JWG-DOC on the basis of consensus and at a comfortable pace to all.

II. ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF)

- Maritime security in the ARF is discussed under the ambit of the ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Maritime Security (ISM on MS). To date there have been nine ISMs on MS convened since 2009, with the most recent in Tokyo on 8-9 February 2017. The work of the ISM on MS is guided by a Work Plan on MS and the current ARF Work Plan on Maritime Security 2015-2017 will be updated for the 2018-2020 implementation period by Viet Nam, Australia and the EU as the current Co-Chairs of this ISM.
- The Ha Noi Plan of Action to Implement the ARF Vision Statement, adopted at the 17th ARF, also sets out measures to develop concrete and effective regional responses to maritime security challenges, including, among others: (i) forging close cooperation towards enhancing the safety and security of navigation; (ii) promoting regional maritime security capacity-building through concrete activities such as information-sharing, exchange of officials and holding maritime security-related tabletop and joint training exercises as and when appropriate; (iii) promoting networking among the ARF, the ASEAN Maritime Forum (AMF), the International Maritime Organization (IMO) as well as other maritime-related fora, as part of a

comprehensive and mutually beneficial approach to maritime cooperation; and (iv) forging closer cooperation in combating maritime terrorism and transnational maritime crimes such as piracy, armed robbery against ships, hijacking, smuggling and trafficking in persons.

- The 9th ISM on MS in Tokyo in February 2017 exchanged views on the coordination between various regional maritime-related bodies and maritime security matters, including the safety of navigation and sustainable marine development. The Meeting also discussed the current situation in the South China Sea and challenges in maritime security, such as illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, piracy and armed robbery at sea, terrorism in the maritime domain, trafficking in persons and illicit drugs and marine pollution. The 10th ISM on MS will be held in Brisbane, Australia, on 27-28 March 2018.
- The ARF has issued the following statements which contain agreement to cooperate on various areas related to maritime security as follows:
 - ARF Statement on Cooperation Against Piracy and Other Threats to Maritime Security, 18 June 2003;
 - ARF Statement on Strengthening Transport Security Against International Terrorism, 2 July 2004;
 - ARF Statement on Strengthening Coordination and Cooperation in Marine and Aeronautical Search and Rescue, 10 August 2014;
 - ARF Statement on Cooperation in Prevention, Preparedness, Response and Restoration from Offshore Oil Spill Incidents, 10 August 2014;
 - ARF Statement on Strengthened Cooperation on Marine Environmental protection and Conservation, 6 August 2015; and
 - ARF Ministerial Statement on Enhancing Cooperation among Maritime Law Enforcement Agencies, 26 July 2016; and
 - ARF Statement on Cooperation to Prevent, Deter, and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing, 7 August 2017.
- Thus far, 32 ad-hoc maritime-related activities have been convened under the ambit of the ARF. Recent activities include the ARF Workshop on Ferry Safety in Guangzhou in December 2017, ARF Workshop on Enhancing Regional Maritime Law Enforcement Cooperation in Nha Trang in January 2018, and the ARF Workshop on Maritime Domain Awareness in Tokyo on 7-8 March 2018, and the ARF Workshop on Sustainable Fisheries Management and Food Security in Bangkok on 13-14 March 2018.
- Other maritime-related activities which will be convened in the inter-sessional year 2017-2018 include the ARF Workshop on Best Practices in Using Maritime Data to Combat Transnational Organized Crime and the ARF Workshop on National Single Points of Contacts.

III. ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting (ADMM)/ADMM-Plus

- The ADMM's commitment to the promotion of maritime security cooperation has been continuously reflected in its Work Programmes, with the focus on maritime safety and search and rescue.
- The 8th ADMM in May 2014 adopted the Concept Paper on Establishing a Direct Communications Link (DCL) in the ADMM Process to establish a communication "hotline" as a measure for reducing risks and managing potential conflicts over maritime security. The DCL has two phases: (i) Phase 1 on secure fax and voice; and (ii) Phase 2 on secure email communication. The Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for Phase 1 of the DCL was adopted by in April 2016. The DCL is now termed as the ASEAN Direct Communications Infrastructure (ADI) and the Phase 1 of the ADI was launched in October 2017.
- The 11th ADMM in Clark the Philippines in 2017 adopted the Concept Paper on the Guidelines for Maritime Interaction which would provide link between efforts undertaken at the policy level with the establishment of the Code of Conduct in the South China Sea (COC) led by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and those at the operational level with the Rules of Engagements among the ASEAN militaries and coast guards.
- Singapore and the Republic of Korea currently co-chair the EWG on MS for the period of 2017-2020. The proposed deliverables during their Co-Chairmanship are among others to conduct an ADMM-Plus FTX including exploring possible joint activities with other ADMM-Plus EWGs. The 12th ADMM-Plus EWG on MS was convened in Singapore in November 2017, and among others agreed to consider the adoption of CUES under the ADMM framework as well as commenced the concept development of the ADMM-Plus EWG on MS TTX to be conducted in 2019.

IV. ASEAN Maritime Forum (AMF) / Expanded ASEAN Maritime Forum (EAMF)

- As part of efforts towards creating an ASEAN mechanism to address regional maritime issues in a holistic and integrated approach, the ASEAN Maritime Forum (AMF) was established in 2010. Its establishment was first mentioned in the Vientiane Action Programme (2004-2010) and reiterated in the APSC Blueprint (2009-2015) as part of the promotion of ASEAN maritime cooperation.
- The AMF is aimed to serve as a value-added forum for dialogue and coordination among concerned agencies on maritime related issues within the ASEAN framework. The AMF is not designed nor oriented to become security centric. It acknowledges the multi-dimensional nature of maritime issues and the necessity to develop a regional comprehensive approach to maritime cooperation.

- Since its inception, the AMF has discussed a wide-array of maritime-related issues including maritime connectivity, maritime security and safety, search and rescue, safety and security of the sea lines of communications, maritime domain awareness, management and protection of maritime ecosystem, biological diversity and aquatic resources, and eco-tourism.
- The 7th AMF held in Jakarta in December 2017 included briefings by the Chairs of various ASEAN Maritime-led Mechanisms, discussion on advancing ASEAN Maritime Cooperation among others. The Forum also had an extensive discussion on existing maritime threats such as sea piracy, drug and people trafficking, maritime terrorism and robbery at sea, as well as emerging challenges such as Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing, waste management of marine plastic debris, cyber threats at sea, natural disaster and climate change.
- Meanwhile, the Expanded ASEAN Maritime Forum (EAMF) established in 2012 includes eight of ASEAN's Dialogue Partners, namely Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, Russia, and the United States of America, in dialogue on important maritime issues. The aims of the EAMF are also, among others, to (i) generate ideas and inputs for the further development of maritime cooperation in ASEAN in general and for the enhancement of the AMF in particular, (ii) develop practical maritime cooperation activities in support of ASEAN's community-building by involving and learning from appropriate interested parties that are capable of contributing to the cooperation, and (iii) mobilise support and attract capacity-building assistance in all relevant maritime issues for ASEAN across the three community pillars. The EAMF has become a venue for ASEAN and its Dialogue Partners to discuss a wide range of maritime issues, including the implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) 1982, maritime connectivity and capacity-building, addressing piracy and transnational crimes at sea, protection of the marine environment, promotion of eco-tourism, security of sea lanes of communication, freedom of navigation, as well as confidence-building measures in the South China Sea.
- The 5th EAMF in Jakarta in December 2017 discussed matters related to ASEAN's partnership with Dialogue Partners on maritime cooperation and on translating regional maritime commitment into actions, among others.
- The Philippines and Viet Nam have indicated interests to chair the 8th AMF/6th EAMF and 9th AMF/7th EAMF, respectively.

V. ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (AMMTC)/ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC)

- Sea piracy is identified as one of the ten areas of transnational crime under the purview of the AMMTC/SOMTC. It is also included as one of the components of the

“Work Programme to Implement the ASEAN Plan of Action to Combat Transnational Crime (also known as the SOMTC Work Programme) 2016-2018”, adopted in September 2015. Malaysia is the SOMTC’s Voluntary Lead Shepherd for Sea Piracy.

- In the past years, SOMTC has also held two activities related to Sea Piracy, namely 1) the “Seminar on ASEAN Maritime Search and Rescue: National Maritime SAR System” which was convened on 16-18 October 2012 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; and 2) the “Seminar on ASEAN Piracy, Sea Robbery and Maritime Terrorism” in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 24-26 February 2015, under the auspices of the ASEAN-Japan Counter-Terrorism (AJCT) Dialogue.
- A number of Dialogue Partners have expressed interest in working together with ASEAN to combat sea piracy, including Australia, China, the European Union and India.

VI. East Asia Summit (EAS)

- Maritime cooperation is a topic that has become more prominent during the recent annual EAS Summits. The Leaders recognized the importance of strengthening maritime cooperation to ensure maritime security, freedom of navigation, and maritime connectivity. Other areas of cooperation discussed by the Leaders include sea anti-piracy, search and rescue at sea, protecting and conserving the marine environment, and fisheries. The EAS participating countries are also engaged in dialogue and cooperation on cross-cutting maritime issues of common concern within the framework of the EAMF.
- An EAS Statement on Enhancing Regional Maritime Cooperation was adopted at the 10th East Asia Summit in 2015. The Statement calls on EAS participating countries to take concrete actions to enhance maritime cooperation, including in sustainable marine economic development, promoting peace and stability, addressing transboundary challenges, developing maritime connectivity, and promoting cooperation between research institutions, among others. A number of activities have been undertaken as follow-up to the Statement, including the EAS Conference on Marine Plastic Debris hosted by Indonesia in September 2017; the EAS Maritime Security Cooperation Seminar co-chaired by Indonesia and Australia in November 2016 in Australia; and the EAS Conference on Maritime Security and Cooperation organized by India in November 2016. An EAS Workshop on Maritime Search and Rescue and EAS Workshop on Maritime Management are scheduled to be held in 2018 in China.
- More recently at the 12th EAS in November 2017 in Manila, the Leaders welcomed the inclusion of maritime cooperation as a new area of cooperation under the EAS. The Leaders also looked forward to practical and comprehensive action lines in the

Manila Plan of Action to advance the Phnom Penh Declaration on the East Asia Summit Development Initiative (2018-2022) (Manila POA) to promote this area of cooperation. The Manila POA was circulated to EAS Foreign Ministers in January 2018 and has been adopted ad referendum.

VII. ASEAN Law Ministers Meeting (ALAWMM)/ASEAN Senior Law Officials Meeting (ASLOM)

- Under the purview of ASLOM, there were two proposals being considered, namely: (i) Development of a Model Law on Maritime Security; and (ii) Development of the ASEAN Agreement on the Conservation of Coastal and Marine Environment.
- Upon further deliberation by ASLOM Members at its previous Meetings, the 17th ASLOM held on 15-16 May 2017 in Putrajaya, Malaysia, agreed to remove both proposals from ASLOM's future work.

VIII. ASEAN Transport Ministers Meeting (ATM)/Senior Transport Officials Meeting (STOM)/ Maritime Transport Working Group (MTWG)

- The Kuala Lumpur Transport Strategic Plan (KLTSP) 2016-2025 is the main reference guiding ASEAN transport cooperation. The maritime transport strategic goals under the KLTSP is to establish an ASEAN Single Shipping Market and promote maritime safety, security and strategic economic corridors within ASEAN. Key initiatives in ASEAN maritime transport cooperation include establishment of ASEAN Single Shipping Market, realisation of Roll-On/Roll-Off (RO-RO) connection, and improvement of maritime safety and security.
- ASEAN cooperation in maritime transport is also guided by the Roadmap towards an Integrated and Competitive Maritime Transport in ASEAN, which seeks to promote and strengthen intra-ASEAN shipping market and services. The measures under the Roadmap are focused on developing an ASEAN single voice in international maritime fora, infrastructure development, market integration through development strategies for an ASEAN Single Shipping Market (ASSM) and human resources development.
- The Master Plan and Feasibility Study on the Establishment of an ASEAN RO-RO Shipping Network and Short Sea Shipping has been completed with recommendations on the importance of coordination among sectoral bodies to realise the prioritised routes as mentioned in the report and to follow progress of the RO-RO prioritised routes and harmonisation of institutional arrangement (e.g. CIQS, road administration).

- The 22nd ATM in November 2016 adopted the Framework of Cooperation on certification of competency for Near Coastal Voyages (NCV) certificates issued by ASEAN Member States. The Cooperation Framework serves as a mechanism to address disparities in the area of trading limits and syllabus requirements between ASEAN Member States on NCV Certificates and focuses on capacity building efforts and sharing of information among ASEAN Member States.
- On maritime security, ASEAN Member States focus on strengthening human resource base for port and shipping operations including navigation safety and maritime security. To date, various activities have been carried out and two activities, namely the ASEAN models of the Audit Training Programme and Maritime Security Training of Trainers (ToT) Programme will be conducted under the Regional Action Plan on Port Security (RAPPS) 2017.
- With the view to intensify search and rescue (SAR) cooperation for efficient transport SAR operations in the region, the 34th STOM/18th ATM Meeting in November 2012 in Indonesia agreed to establish the ASEAN Transport SAR Forum (ATSF). The ATSF was established under the ambit of ASEAN transport cooperation and would serve as a technical and policy forum for dialogues among transport SAR agencies within ASEAN framework. The ATSF, which meets once a year, is the principal arm of the ASEAN STOM, in particular, ASEAN Air Transport Working Group (ATWG) and MTWG in coordinating the implementation of transport SAR programs, projects and activities.
- In order to set targeted achievement and timeline in the implementation of SAR cooperation activities, the ATSF has developed a Programme of Action for the period of 2015-2020. Currently, ASEAN efforts are focused on the finalisation of the ASEAN Agreement on Aeronautical and Maritime SAR Cooperation, which will be a framework to enhance regional SAR cooperation and increase effectiveness of aeronautical and maritime SAR operation within ASEAN, which is expected to be concluded by 2018.
- To support the implementation of the Agreement, the ASEAN SAR Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) is being developed. The SAR SOP will serve as a guide for all ASEAN Member States in the coordination, communication and procedures in SAR operation in order to achieve optimum outcome.
- ASEAN Member States also intend to conduct the Table Top Exercise (TTX) and Field Training Exercise (FTX) regularly, to improve skill and capabilities on the command and control in SAR decision making process. The TTX has been held every year since 2014. The objective of the TTX is mainly to test the communication and coordination procedures for SAR operation among ASEAN countries, based on real-life scenario. In addition to that, TTX was also focused on the development and finalisation of the draft ASEAN SAR SOP. The FTX will be conducted regularly after the ASEAN SAR SOP is finalised.

- The ASEAN Transport Ministers signed the MOU on ASEAN Cooperation Mechanism for Joint Oil Spill Preparedness and Response at the 20th ATM Meeting in Mandalay, Myanmar in November 2014. The MOU provides guidelines for regional collaborative mechanism in building capacities and capabilities as well as promoting mutual assistance in preparing for, controlling and combating oil spill incidents in the ASEAN region. The draft of ASEAN Regional Oil Spill Contingency Plan (ROSCP), as an operational implementation plan of the MOU, has been completed and is being reviewed to integrate with other existing regional plans. Currently, the implementation of activities under ACMCM are ongoing.

IX. ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (AMAF)

- As guided by the ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint (2025) and the Vision and Strategic Plan for ASEAN Cooperation in Food, Agriculture, and Forestry (2025), the fisheries cooperation focuses on enhancing the quantity and quality of fisheries production; ensuring food security and food safety; enhancing trade facilitation, economic integration, and market access; increasing resilience to climate change; strengthening joint approaches on international/regional issues; and assisting small-scale producers from both capture and aquaculture to become viable and competitive enterprises.
- Under the Strategic Plan of Action for ASEAN Cooperation on Fisheries (2016-2020), some of the priority measures include:
 - Foster cooperation in combating IUU Fishing;
 - Develop regional guidelines/mechanism for warning system on aquatic animal health and diseases;
 - Develop simple and practical indicators in supporting planning and monitoring of sustainable fisheries;
 - Capacity building on fish quality and safety management systems;
 - Alignment and implementation of ASEAN Good Aquaculture Practices;
 - Develop traceability system for capture fisheries and aquaculture;
 - Develop ASEAN standards/technical regulations for fisheries products;
 - Develop regional guidelines and principles on inspection mechanism, and sharing information and best practice on quarantine and inspection procedures;
 - Develop regional networking with fisheries cooperatives and fishers organisations;
 - Promote blue economy;
 - Promote collaboration on climate resilient aquaculture/fisheries technologies and approaches, early warning systems/indicators of climate impacts, and climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies;
 - Promote dialogue among AMS to establish common positions on fisheries issues that impact the ASEAN Region.

- Under the AMAF structure, the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries (ASWGFi) is mandated to strengthen fisheries cooperation through exchange of information among the ASEAN Member States on fisheries with the view to facilitate cooperative undertakings in this sector of the economy, as well as the eventual coordination and harmonization of ASEAN fisheries policies; to identify areas of cooperation among the ASEAN Member States as well as with Dialogue Partners, international organisations, in order to promote the sound development of the sector in the ASEAN region; and to monitor and evaluate the progress made in the implementation of approved projects and activities. The ASWGFi is supported by three sub-working groups, namely: i) ASEAN Fisheries Consultative Forum (AFCF), ii) ASEAN Shrimp Alliance, and iii) Fisheries Consultative Group of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (FCG/ASSP).
- Thus far, the following documents have been adopted:
 - ASEAN Guidelines on Good Aquaculture Practices (GAqP), adopted in 2014;
 - ASEAN Guidelines for Preventing the Entry of Fish and Fishery Products from IUU Fishing Activities into the Supply Chain, adopted in 2015;
 - Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for Responsible Movement of Live Aquatic Animals in ASEAN, adopted in 2015;
 - Template on the Arrangement on the Equivalence of Fishery Products Inspection and Certification Systems, adopted in 2015;
 - ASEAN Regional Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity (RPOA-Capacity), adopted in 2016;
 - Regional Guidelines on Traceability System for Aquaculture Products in the ASEAN Region, adopted in 2016; and
 - ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme for Marine Capture Fisheries in 2017.
- Recognising the serious threat of IUU fishing in the sustainability of the region's fisheries resources and economic viability, the 38th AMAF noted the Joint ASEAN-SEAFDEC Declaration on Regional Cooperation for Combating Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing and Enhancing the Competitiveness of ASEAN Fish and Fishery Products, and agreed to: (i) Strengthen the Fisheries Monitoring, Control and Surveillance systems; (ii) Enhance traceability of fish and fishery products; (iii) Manage fishing capacity; (iv) Promote the implementation of Port State Measures; (v) Enhance regional cooperation in managing trans-boundary fisheries resources and combating IUU fishing; (vi) Regulate the quality and safety of fish and fishery products; (vii) Address issues on fisheries labour; and (viii) Develop preventive measures for the rehabilitation of resources and recovery of fish stocks.

X. Meeting of the ASEAN Tourism Ministers (M-ATM)/ASEAN National Tourism Organisations (NTOs)

- At the 20th Meeting of ASEAN Tourism Ministers (M-ATM), held during ASEAN Tourism Forum (ATF) in Singapore in January 2017, the Ministers reiterated their commitment to develop Southeast Asia into a vibrant cruising destination. In support, they agreed to develop a Joint Declaration on Cruise Tourism as part of the cruise workplans under the ASEAN Tourism Competitiveness Committee.
- To further realise the potential of cruise tourism in the region, an inaugural Cruise Dialogue was held on 19 January 2017. Organised by Singapore, the ASEAN lead coordinator for cruise development, the Dialogue discussed the growth potential of the cruise industry, cited examples of cruise port development projects around the world, and examined how cruise lines and entities like World Bank can partner the ASEAN Member States to support cruise port development.
- The Ministers welcomed the finalisation of the United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) report on Sustainable Cruise Tourism Development Strategies. The report was commissioned to obtain an understanding of current sustainable development practices across the region and analysed the cruise tourism in ASEAN countries who participated in the study. It also touched on some of the best practices around the world to provide a reference in helping ASEAN countries develop their own sustainable cruise tourism strategies.
- The Ministers noted the good potential of yachting in the region as a new ASEAN tourism product, and requested ASEAN Tourism Competitiveness Committee to look into this and to identify actions to further develop this product.
- The 21st ASEAN Tourism Minister Meeting (M-ATM), held during the ASEAN Tourism Forum (ATF) 2018 in Chiang Mai in January 2018, adopted the ASEAN Declaration on Cruise Tourism. The Declaration outlines the States' commitment towards greater clarity in cruise-related policies and regulations, efficiency in processes, responsibility in business practices and capacity building. The Ministers agreed that implementation of the Cruise Tourism Declaration may include yachting and marina activities.

XI. ASEAN Connectivity Coordinating Committee (ACCC)

- The Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) 2025 was adopted by the ASEAN Leaders during the 28th ASEAN Summit on 6 September 2016 in Vientiane, Lao PDR. The ASEAN Connectivity Coordinating Committee (ACCC) has been established to monitor, evaluate and review on a regular basis, or as appropriate, the implementation of the strategies, initiatives and key implementing measures of the MPAC to include resource mobilisation efforts.

- The Master Plan and Feasibility Study on the establishment of an ASEAN RO-RO (Roll-On/Roll-Off) network and Short-Sea Shipping was completed with recommendations to follow-up with the implementation of the RO-RO prioritised routes and harmonisation of institutional arrangement (e.g. customs, immigration, quarantine, and security or CIQS services, road administration). The 3 identified priority routes, namely, Davao–General Santos–Bitung route, Belawan–Penang–Phuket route and Melaka–Dumai route are at different stages of progress. The Davao–General Santos–Bitung Roll-on Roll-off (RoRo) Sea Linkage between Southeastern Mindanao, in the Philippines and North Sulawesi, Indonesia was launched on 30 April 2017. Apart from the above, 47 designated ports have been identified for performance and capacity enhancement.

XII. ASEAN Working Group on Coastal and Marine Environment (AWGCME) under the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Environment (AMME)/ASEAN Senior Officials on Environment (ASOEN)

- Promoting sustainable use of the coastal and marine environment is one of the priority areas of ASEAN environmental cooperation aimed at the promotion and preservation of the marine environment in the region.
 - To help protect the shared marine waters in the region, ASEAN has adopted: the Marine Water Quality Criteria for the ASEAN Region, the ASEAN Criteria for National Marine Protected Areas, the ASEAN Criteria for Marine Heritage Areas, the ASEAN Marine Water Quality Criteria: Management Guidelines and Monitoring Manual, which aim at enhancing the coordination among ASEAN Member States on marine water quality management policies and monitoring approaches.
 - The ASEAN Mechanism to Enhance Surveillance against Illegal Desludging and Disposal of Tanker Sludge at Sea is to ensure coordinated efforts among ASEAN Member States to control tanker desludging activities and to promote proper disposal of the tanker sludge at approved disposal facilities.
- **Main activities:**
A number of marine and coastal-related activities have been completed, as follows:
 - The project on Climate Change and ASEAN Coastal Areas: Vulnerability, Impacts and Adaptation which was led by Viet Nam.
 - ASEAN Conference on Reducing Marine Debris in ASEAN Region which was conducted in Phuket, Thailand on 22-23 November 2017. The event was co-organised by Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of Thailand and the ASEAN Secretariat, with the support from UN

Environment and GIZ through ASEAN Center for Biodiversity (ACB)-GIZ Care4Bio Programme. The conference aimed to gather inputs from a broad range of stakeholders and identify how marine debris issues in ASEAN can be solved through a global partnership and cooperation mechanism, enhanced regional dialogue and cooperation and raise awareness of ASEAN community in marine debris issues.

- The ACB and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) jointly supported a study on “Assessment on climate change resilience of marine and coastal ecosystems in the ASEAN”, which has been completed in 2017 in selected protected areas in Indonesia, Myanmar, and Philippines.
- The ongoing activities include the Workshop on the Implementation of ASEAN Mechanism to Enhance Surveillance against Illegal Desludging and Disposal of Tanker Sludge, which will be conducted in Batam, Indonesia in April 2018.

- **Cross-sectoral activities on marine conservation:**

- **Marine-based ASEAN Heritage Parks.** The ASEAN Heritage Parks (AHP) Programme serves as a regional network of national protected areas of high conservation importance preserving a complete spectrum of representative ecosystem to generate greater awareness, pride, appreciation, enjoyment, and conservation of ASEAN's rich natural heritage. The ACB serves as the Secretariat of the AHP Program. With the recent endorsement of the nomination of Kepulauan Seribu and Wakatobi Natural Parks from Indonesia by the 14th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Environment (AMME) in Brunei Darussalam on 12 September 2017, there are currently seven marine ASEAN Heritage Parks, in addition to the Lampi Marine National Park (Myanmar), Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park (Philippines), Tarutao National Marine Park and Ao Phang-Nga - Mu Koh Surin - Mu Koh Similan National Park (Thailand), and Bai Tu Long National Park (Viet Nam).
- **Integrated River Basin Management.** The “*Regional Project on Reduction Pollution and Preserving Environmental Flows in the East Asian Seas through the Implementation of the Integrated River Basin Management (IRBM) in ASEAN Countries*” commissioned by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and implemented by the Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA) is a 5-year project aiming to improve integrated water resource management, reduce pollution loads from nutrients and other land-based activities, sustain freshwater environmental flows and reduce climate vulnerability through demonstrations and replications, planning and strengthening of integrated river basin management in selected countries in the East Asian Seas.

- **Underwater natural and cultural heritage.** UNESCO and ASEAN, with the support of the Ministry of Education and Culture of the Republic of Indonesia, co-organised the ASEAN-UNESCO Conference on the Protection of Underwater Cultural Heritage in Makassar, Indonesia, on 19-20 September 2017. Covering the themes of maritime history of Southeast Asia, underwater cultural heritage, and underwater natural heritage, the Conference aims to: (a) increase knowledge on underwater cultural heritage of Southeast Asia; (b) share experiences on the challenges in the protection of underwater cultural heritage; (c) raise awareness on the importance of developing measures for the protection of underwater heritage such as through the adoption of national-level legislation or strategies; and (d) promote understanding of the UNESCO 2001 Convention on the Protection of Underwater Cultural Heritage. The ways forward are to, among others: encourage partnerships to ensure cooperation towards transboundary activities related to underwater cultural and natural heritage at the regional level and to promote and ensure the protection and conservation of marine resources vis-a-vis underwater cultural heritage

XIII. ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Science and Technology (AMMST)/Committee on Science and Technology (COST)/Sub-Committee on Marine Science and Technology (SCMSAT)

- The Sub-Committee on Marine Science and Technology (SCMSAT) under the ASEAN Committee on Science and Technology (COST) was established to promote sustainable development of marine living and non-living resources in the ASEAN region.
- The 2016-2025 priority areas of the Sub-Committee on Marine Science and Technology (SCMSAT) are as follows:
 - Trans-boundary aquatic pollution/ marine debris;
 - Risk management and mitigation from climate change; and
 - Renewable energy and Marine Biodiversity.
- In the area of trans-boundary aquatic pollution/ marine debris, the activity is as follows:
 - Technical workshop: Conservation of migratory marine mammals and other endangered marine organism (To be conducted in 2018 or 2019)
- In the area of risk management and mitigation from climate change, the activities are as follows:

- Technical Workshop: Carbon sink and sequestration in aquatic ecosystems (To be conducted in 2018 or 2019)
 - Technical Workshop: Response to cross border oil spill incidents (Proposed future initiative)
 - Technical Workshop: Ocean acidification and its ecological Impacts (Proposed future initiative)
- In the area of renewable energy and marine biodiversity, the activities are as follows:
 - Technical Workshop: Climate change impacts and coastal adaptation of coastal community within the South China Sea (Conducted on 25-27 October 2017, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia)
 - Technical Workshop: Biofuel production from aquatic algae in ASEAN countries (Proposed future initiative)

Remarks: *The ASEAN Secretariat's Information Paper entitled "Maritime Cooperation in ASEAN" is prepared upon request by Thailand at the 9th ASEAN Regional Forum Inter-Sessional Meeting on Maritime Security in Tokyo, in 2017.*