

## Background Information on the ASEAN Chief Justices' Roundtable on Environment

### THE ROUNDTABLE

1. The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Chief Justices' Roundtable on Environment (ASEAN CJR on Environment), which is one of the major activities supported by the Asian Development Bank (ADB)'s Technical Assistance (TA) 7735, serves as an annual forum for ASEAN judiciaries to: (i) discuss domestic and transboundary environmental challenges; (ii) examine the legal, institutional, and governance issues hindering effective environmental decision-making; (iii) consider needed legal and judicial reforms, including environmental specialization programs and special rules of procedure for environmental cases; (iv) analyze how the three branches of government can promote environmental justice; and (v) advance regional cooperation on addressing these environmental challenges.
2. Since 2011, ADB has partnered with six Southeast Asian judiciaries—the Supreme Court of Indonesia, the Federal Court of Malaysia, the Supreme Administrative Court of Thailand, the Supreme People's Court of Viet Nam, the Supreme Court of Cambodia, and the Supreme Court of the Philippines—in convening the annual ASEAN CJR on Environment.<sup>1</sup>
3. In 2014, representatives from ASEAN judiciaries attended the First ASEAN Judicial Working Group on Environment Meeting in Ha Noi, Viet Nam to design the agenda of the Fourth ASEAN CJR on Environment and draft the Proposed Hanoi Action Plan to Implement the Jakarta Common Vision. The group met for the second time in Phnom Penh, Cambodia to design the agenda of the Fifth ASEAN CJR on Environment and draft the Proposed Angkor Statement of Judicial Cooperation on Environment.

### OUTCOME DOCUMENTS<sup>2</sup>

1. **A Common Vision on Environment for ASEAN Judiciaries (the Jakarta Common Vision).** The vision highlighted the important role of ASEAN judiciaries as champions of the rule of law and environmental justice. It also called for regional collaboration on environmental law enforcement, information-sharing, training and judicial specialization, among others.
2. **Hanoi Action Plan to Implement the Jakarta Common Vision (the Hanoi Action Plan).** The document outlines concrete steps for the realization of the Jakarta Common Vision, including the establishment of the ASEAN Judicial Working Group on Environment and the national judicial working groups on environment, the submission of progress reports, and the conduct of joint judicial training programs.
3. **Angkor Statement of Judicial Cooperation on Environment (the Angkor Statement).** The statement attests to the ASEAN judiciaries' commitment to collaborate in dealing with the region's transboundary environmental issues, continue implementing the Jakarta Common Vision and the Hanoi Action Plan, and advance information-sharing and environmental law education and training.

---

<sup>1</sup> This number includes the Sixth ASEAN Chief Justices' Roundtable on Environment to be held in Palawan on 10-13 November 2016.

<sup>2</sup> Brunei Darussalam and Singapore support efforts to protect the environment, recognize the relevance of the work of the ASEAN Chief Justices' Roundtable on Environment to many ASEAN countries, and consider the Jakarta Common Vision, the Hanoi Action Plan, and the Angkor Statement to be aspirational and nonbinding documents.