



## **JOINT STATEMENT**

### **THE EIGHTH ASEAN PLUS JAPAN MINISTERIAL MEETING ON TRANSNATIONAL CRIME (8<sup>TH</sup> AMMTC + JAPAN) CONSULTATION**

**Labuan Bajo, Indonesia, 22 August 2023**

1. The Eighth ASEAN Plus Japan Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (8<sup>th</sup> AMMTC + Japan) Consultation was held in Labuan Bajo, Indonesia on 22 August 2023. The Consultation was co-chaired by the Kingdom of Thailand and Japan.
2. We took note of the outcomes of the Nineteenth ASEAN Plus Japan Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime (19<sup>th</sup> SOMTC + Japan) Consultation held in Yogyakarta, Indonesia on 22 June 2023 and the Preparatory SOMTC + Japan for the 8<sup>th</sup> AMMTC + Japan Consultation held on 20 August 2023 in Labuan Bajo, Indonesia.
3. We welcomed the adoption of the SOMTC – Japan Work Plan on Cooperation to Combat Transnational Crime (2023-2027) at the 19<sup>th</sup> SOMTC + Japan Consultation. We exchanged views on areas of mutual interest to advance cooperation between ASEAN and Japan in combating transnational crime in support of the full and effective implementation of the Work Plan.
4. In particular, we shared our concern regarding the ever-increasing number of damages caused by online and telephone scams both in Japan and ASEAN. We exchanged our views on foreign and domestic criminal groups that are carrying out the scams and other illicit activities including trafficking in persons. We reaffirmed our commitment to combat these criminal groups by enhancing international investigative cooperation, and prevent the region from becoming a safe haven for their criminal activities.
5. We noted some participants shared the views on the importance of addressing the humanitarian concern of the international community, including the immediate resolution of the abductions issue.
6. We welcomed the kind offer by Lao People's Democratic Republic to host the 9<sup>th</sup> AMMTC + Japan Consultation in 2024.

7. We welcomed Timor-Leste's first participation in the Consultation as Observer. We expressed our deep appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Indonesia for the warm hospitality accorded to us and our respective delegations and the excellent arrangements made for the Consultation. The Consultation was held in the traditional ASEAN spirit of solidarity and cordiality.

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