PRESS STATEMENT

HEADS OF THE ASEAN NATIONAL STATISTICAL OFFICES ATTENDED THE 13TH SESSION OF THE ASEAN COMMUNITY STATISTICAL SYSTEM (ACSS) COMMITTEE, 22ND TO 24TH NOVEMBER 2023, JAKARTA, INDONESIA

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PUTRAJAYA, 1ST DECEMBER 2023 – The 13th Session of the ASEAN Community Statistical System (ACSS13) Committee was held from 22nd to 24th November 2023 in Jakarta, Indonesia and attended by the Heads of the ASEAN National Statistical Offices (NSOs) as well as International Organisations and Development Partners. The meeting was hosted by Badan Pusat Statistik (Statistics Indonesia supported by the ASEAN Secretariat. The ACSS was established in 2011 and has been continuing its efforts to provide relevant, timely and comparable ASEAN statistics in support of ASEAN integration monitoring and evidence-based policy and decision-making. The ACSS consistently strengthens its cooperation to enhance the statistical capacities of the ASEAN Member States (AMS) and the ASEAN Secretariat.

Malaysia was represented by the Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM) led by the Deputy Chief Statistician Malaysia, Economic Programme, YBhg. Datin Seri Rozita Talha as a representative of the Chief Statistician Malaysia, YBhg. Dato' Sri Dr. Mohd Uzir Mahidin as a member of ACSS, accompanied by the Director of Strategic Communication and International Division, Ms. Ezatul Nisha Abdul Rahman as a member of ACSS SubCommittee Planning and Coordination Committee (ACSS-SCPC) member. DOSM's participation in the ACSS meeting was to provide input and feedback for the ACSS Strategic Plan 2021-2025, the Annual Work Plan (AWP), progress in data coordination and other issues related to statistical development. The ACSS Strategic Plan is a framework prepared to strengthen the ASEAN statistical mechanism and system through a strategic implementation plan for a period of 5 years. It aims to ensure the effectiveness of the coordination, production, harmonisation, dissemination, and communication of statistics in ASEAN Member States (AMSs) and also ASEAN. There are four (4) main strategies to better meet the

data needs of the ASEAN Community through statistical cooperation, capacity building and contribution to the development of statistics at the global and regional levels.

The theme for ACSS13 was " **Navigating Official Statistics towards ASEAN as the Epicentrum of Growth."** ACSS Malaysia representatives made a presentation during the Agenda 10 Session: National Experience Sharing Session on the topic "Malaysia's Strategies and Responses to the Dynamic Change of Economy in ASEAN as the Epicentrum of Growth". Besides, Malaysia as the Chairman of the Working Group on System National Accounts (WGSNA) for the year 2021-2024, presented the WG's progress/ implementation of activities throughout the year 2023.

In addition, Malaysia through DOSM was also actively involved in implementing ASEAN Help ASEAN Framework (AHAF) courses under each ACSS Working Group, which helped increase capacity building among other ASEAN members in line with the ACSS Strategic Plan 2021-2025. Four (4) AHAFs were organized throughout 2022 until 2023, among which were Capacity Building Under AHAF - Sharing on the Sustainable Development Goals 9.1.1 & 1.2.2 (SDG 9.1.1 & SDG 1.2.2) and Capacity Building under ASEAN Help ASEAN Framework (AHAF): Online Training on Linking Business with Trade Data. Malaysia appreciates ASEANStats and AMS's efforts in implementing the AHAF courses under each ACSS Working Group, which helped improve capacity building among the members. Malaysia strongly encourages expanding this AHAF sharing platform and ensures that each implementation of the programme or activity achieves the desired goal.

ACSS13 was held consecutively with the launch of the UN Regional Hub on Big Data and Data Science for Asia and the Pacific in Indonesia and the opening of the Conference on Data Science and Official Statistics (ICDSOS) on 24 November 2023. The UN Regional Hub on Big Data and Data Science for Asia and the Pacific would meet virtually once or twice a year to help guide the work of the regional hub. In line with the invitation to DOSM to join the Advisory Committee for the regional hub on big data and data science for Asia and the Pacific, DOSM's presence during the ACSS13 session was also to discuss the development of the regional hub.

Malaysia is looking forward to participate in the 14th Session of the ASEAN Community Statistical System (ACSS14) Committee which will be held in 2024 and will be chaired by Lao PDR.

The Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM) has launched OpenDOSM NextGen as a medium that provides a catalog of data and visualisations to facilitate users' analysis of various data and can be accessed through https://open.dosm.gov.my.

DOSM will conduct the Agricultural Census in 2024. Please visit https://www.myagricensus.gov.my/ for more information. The theme is "Agriculture Census, Key to Agricultural Development."

The Government of Malaysia has declared National Statistics Day (MyStats Day) on October 20th each year. MyStats Day theme is "Statistics is the Essence of Life".

Released by:
THE OFFICE OF CHIEF STATISTICIAN MALAYSIA
DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS MALAYSIA
1 DECEMBER 2023