



**BANGKOK DECLARATION
AT THE 13TH COUNCIL OF ASEAN CHIEF JUSTICES MEETING**

WE, the Chief Justices of Brunei Darussalam, Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, Malaysia, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, Kingdom of Thailand, and the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste; the Representatives of the Chief Justices of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam; at the 13th Council of ASEAN Chief Justices ("CACJ") Meeting in Thailand;

DO HEREBY DECLARE:

1. **THE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND APPRECIATION** of the CACJ to Thailand for successfully hosting the 13th CACJ Meeting on 22 July 2026.
2. **THE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND APPRECIATION** of the CACJ to Malaysia for successfully hosting the 2026 CACJ Working Week from 26 to 29 April 2026.
3. **THE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT** of Timor-Leste's admission as a member of the CACJ.
4. **THE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND APPRECIATION** of the CACJ to the Supreme Court of the Republic of Indonesia and the Supreme Court of the Philippines for the continued progress of the Working Group on Judicial Education and Training ("JET WG") in:
 - (i) Maintaining the CACJ E-Learning Portal, a learning management system linked to the ASEAN Judiciaries Portal ("AJP"), created in cooperation with the Asian Development Bank, and promoting its full utilization with additional e-learning courses;
 - (ii) Successfully implementing the Pilot Training on Consumer Protection for ASEAN Judiciaries in Makati City, Philippines;
 - (iii) Completing the development and testing of the CACJ E-Learning Module on Consumer Protection for ASEAN judges in

cooperation with the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (“GIZ”) – Consumer Protection in ASEAN II Project;

- (iv) Successfully conducting the Second ASEAN Multilateral Judicial Knowledge Exchange in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam in cooperation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (“UNODC”) and ASEAN-Australian Counter Trafficking;
 - (v) Continuing the review and update of the Strategic Plan 2018–2025 and the Work Plan 2020–2025; and
 - (vi) Successfully conducting the 1st Judicial Well-Being Workshop in Denpasar, Bali, Indonesia, in cooperation with UNODC.
5. **THE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND APPRECIATION** of the JET WG to the judiciaries of Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, Timor-Leste, and Viet Nam for approving the translation in their respective national languages of the Model Professional Development Program for ASEAN Judges on Trafficking in Persons (“TIP”) for uploading in the AJP.
6. **THE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT** of the intention of the Norwegian Embassy and Raoul Wallenberg Institute to support the implementation of JET WG programmes in accordance with the priorities of the Work Plan 2020–2025; and **THE AGREEMENT** for the JET WG to submit its recommendations to the CACJ for approval prior to implementation.
7. **THE AGREEMENT** for the JET WG to:
- (i) Complete the Compendium of Good Practices in Adjudicating TIP Cases in ASEAN Member States: Lessons Learned and Responses to Challenges, in consultation with ASEAN judiciaries;
 - (ii) Adopt and support the implementation of the Model Professional Development Program for ASEAN judges on TIP, including its domestic roll-out by the respective judicial training institutes and its publication on the AJP;
 - (iii) Continue to maintain the CACJ E-Learning Portal and develop a sustainability plan for its long-term operation, including the identification of potential development partners;

- (iv) Adopt the CACJ E-Learning Module on “Consumer Protection for ASEAN Judges,” developed in cooperation with GIZ, as the third training module for the CACJ E-Learning Portal, and to mandate its broader use by ASEAN judiciaries;
 - (v) Continue the review and update of the Strategic Plan 2018–2025 and the Work Plan 2020–2025, and explore potential internal and external sources of funding, including through dialogue with development partners; and
 - (vi) In cooperation with the Working Group on Climate Justice, continue collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme to promote knowledge and capacity-building on climate justice among ASEAN judiciaries.
8. **THE AGREEMENT** for the JET WG to continue the discussion and preparation for the piloting and subsequent establishment of the ASEAN Judicial Fellows Programme, as set out in the Revised Concept Note which was prepared in accordance with the Recommended Blueprint approved by the 11th CACJ Meeting.
9. **THE AGREEMENT** of the CACJ to:
- (i) Adopt the Denpasar Judicial Well-Being Principles, as proposed by the JET WG, as the Denpasar Principles;
 - (ii) Encourage ASEAN judiciaries to adopt the Denpasar Principles and to develop further cooperation on judicial well-being at the national level; and
 - (iii) Encourage the JET WG to further explore initiatives and collaboration to promote understanding, research, and cooperation on judicial well-being.
10. **THE AGREEMENT** to approve the finalised draft of Volume I of the Memorandum of Guidance on Recognition and Enforcement of Money Judgments within ASEAN (“ASEAN MOG”) which was presented by the Working Group on Civil Proceedings within ASEAN at the 13th CACJ Meeting and to recommend for its publication on the AJP and other respective ASEAN Member State’s official judiciaries website.
11. **THE AGREEMENT** for the Working Group on Civil Proceedings within ASEAN to further deliberate and continue its endeavours in developing

Volume II of the ASEAN MOG with an extended timeline to 2028 and for necessary progress report and appropriate recommendations to be submitted for the CACJ's consideration at the 14th CACJ Meeting.

12. **THE ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND APPRECIATION** of the CACJ to Malaysia and the CACJ Secretariat for organising the masterclasses conducted by the Permanent Bureau of the Hague Conference on Private International Law on 26 April 2026, during the 2026 CACJ Working Week.
13. **THE AGREEMENT** to approve the finalised draft of the Simplified Protocol on Verification Procedure to Authenticate Court Orders Within ASEAN which was presented by the Working Group on Case Management and Court Technology ("CMCT WG") at the 13th CACJ Meeting, and to recommend its publication on the AJP.
14. **THE ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND APPRECIATION** to the CMCT WG for conducting a survey with the ASEAN judiciaries to ascertain their respective priorities in the area of court technology, the current stage of development in relation to the identified areas, the assistance they may require, and the expertise and support they are able to extend; for presenting the findings of the survey at its meeting held during the 2026 CACJ Working Week; and for sharing those findings with the Working Group on ASEAN+ Meetings for its information and further consideration.
15. **THE AGREEMENT** for the CMCT WG to (i) develop the next ASEAN Judiciaries Roadmap for the deployment and use of technology, (ii) to review and revise the Governance Framework on the Use of AI for ASEAN Judiciaries, and to submit the necessary progress reports and appropriate recommendations for the CACJ's consideration at the 14th CACJ Meeting.
16. **THE AGREEMENT** for each ASEAN judiciary to provide updates to their respective landing pages on the AJP, and for all ASEAN judiciaries that have hosted past CACJ meetings to submit any multimedia content produced to highlight CACJ's story, achievements and/or milestones.
17. **THE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT** of the work of the Working Group on the AJP and its Social Media Taskforce in setting up the CACJ *LinkedIn* Page.

18. **THE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT** that the Working Group on Cross-border Disputes Involving Children is considering the adoption of a Roadmap to promote the use of Therapeutic Justice (“TJ”) and TJ-related practices in ASEAN by –
- (i) Understanding the use of TJ and TJ-related practices in ASEAN through regular exchange of knowledge and sharing of processes and practices;
 - (ii) Identifying common TJ and TJ-related processes, as well as innovative best practices, for adoption in ASEAN;
 - (iii) Enhancing the use of TJ and TJ-related practices in ASEAN through training and other knowledge and skills development initiatives; and
 - (iv) Developing common communication and other protocols and procedures in the promotion of the use of TJ and TJ-related practices which are consistent with each jurisdiction’s domestic laws.
19. **THE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT** of the positive response by the Chief Justice of the High Court of Australia to the CACJ’s invitation for potential judicial collaboration between the CACJ and the Australian Judiciary; and **THE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND APPRECIATION** of the progress made by the Working Group on ASEAN+ Meetings (“ASEAN+ WG”) in furthering such potential judicial collaboration, including the preparation and transmission of the Concept Note entitled “ASEAN–Australia Judicial Cooperation: Proposed Framework for Initial Dialogue” to the Australian Judiciary for its consideration.
20. **THE AGREEMENT** for the ASEAN+ WG to continue engagement with the Australian Judiciary with a view to identifying and developing mutually beneficial judicial collaborative initiatives, to consult relevant CACJ workstreams where appropriate, and to submit any proposed collaborative initiatives to the CACJ for future consideration.
21. **THE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT** of the ongoing initiatives concerning judicial cooperation with the judiciaries of the People's Republic of China, Japan, and the Republic of Korea in the areas of court technology and cross-border videoconferencing hearings; and **THE AGREEMENT** for the ASEAN+ WG to continue coordinating and providing support, where

appropriate, in relation to the implementation of those initiatives, and to report further developments at the 14th CACJ Meeting.

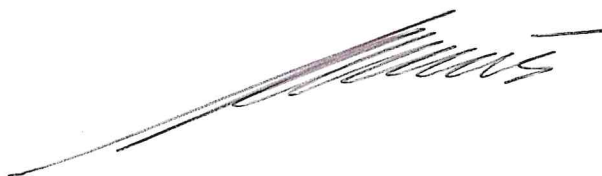
22. **THE AGREEMENT** for the Working Group on the Conduct of Videoconferencing Hearings (“VCH WG”) to update the Compendium of Videoconferencing Practices among ASEAN Member States based on any relevant further information received from ASEAN judiciaries.
23. **THE AGREEMENT** for the VCH WG to continue engaging with the Judiciaries of the People’s Republic of China, Japan, and the Republic of Korea regarding the inclusion of their rules on videoconferencing hearings in the Compendium of Videoconferencing Practices among ASEAN+ States, a revised and expanded version of the Compendium of Videoconferencing Practices among ASEAN Member States.
24. **THE AGREEMENT** for the VCH WG to continue sharing judgments, procedural best practices, and data-protection guidelines relevant to cross-border videoconferencing hearings, as well as information on courtroom technology, cybersecurity standards, and digital evidence management to support reliable and accessible cross-border videoconferencing hearings, and updates on the rules governing the conduct of videoconferencing hearings within their respective jurisdictions, at each meeting of the Working Group.
25. **THE AGREEMENT** for the Working Group on Climate Justice to conduct a Symposium on the International Court of Justice Advisory Opinion on Climate Change, and **THE AGREEMENT** for the Working Group to collate relevant materials from ASEAN judiciaries for inclusion in the online database on climate justice.
26. **THE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND APPRECIATION** of the CACJ for the work of the Second Meeting of ASEAN Intellectual Property Judges, including the country presentations and exchanges on court measures to prevent and restrain digital piracy and online intellectual property infringement.
27. **THE AGREEMENT** for the Meeting of ASEAN Intellectual Property Judges to continue its work as a forum for sharing judicial knowledge, comparative experiences and good practices on intellectual property-related matters, including digital piracy, technology-enabled infringement, and cross-border challenges in the enforcement of intellectual property rights.

28. **THE AGREEMENT** for the Meeting on Digital and Virtual Assets to host an online seminar or seminars on digital assets for ASEAN judges, to circulate a survey questionnaire to ASEAN judiciaries to gather feedback on common legal issues relating to digital assets across all ASEAN Member States, and to prepare a draft compendium on the common legal issues relating to digital assets.
29. **THE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT** of the Singapore Judiciary's continued role in facilitating the work of the ASEAN-IFCE Resource Network ("Network"); and **THE APPRECIATION** to the members of the Network for their active participation in the roundtable meetings and their valuable contributions of materials and information to the Network's knowledge database.
30. **THE AGREEMENT** for the CACJ Secretariat to submit a summary report of the CACJ's activities for 2025–2026 to the Committee of Permanent Representatives to ASEAN, through the ASEAN Secretariat.
31. **THE ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND APPRECIATION** of the CACJ to Singapore for hosting the Standing CACJ Secretariat from 2022 to 2027 and **THE AGREEMENT** for Singapore to host the Standing CACJ Secretariat for a further period of 5 years with effect from 24 March 2027.
32. **THE ACKNOWLEDGMENT** of the agreement between Cambodia and Lao PDR to swap the rotational hosting order of ALA and CACJ Meetings and **THE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT** of Cambodia's intention to host the twinned ALA and CACJ Meetings in 2028.
33. **THE AGREEMENT** for the CACJ to convene a CACJ Working Week in Indonesia in 2027; and **THE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND APPRECIATION** of the CACJ to CACJ Indonesia for their agreement to host the said CACJ Working Week in place of CACJ Brunei on the basis of reciprocity.

Signed this 22nd day of July 2026
at Bangkok, Thailand



The Hon. Dato Seri Paduka Steven Chong Wan Oon
Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Brunei Darussalam



The Hon. Sunarto
Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Indonesia



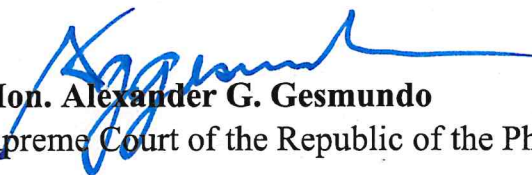
H.E. Bounkhouang Thavisack
Vice President of the People's Supreme Court of the Lao People's Democratic
Republic



The Rt. Hon. Tun Wan Ahmad Farid bin Wan Salleh
Chief Justice of the Federal Court of Malaysia



The Hon. Tha Htay
Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the Union of Myanmar



The Hon. Alexander G. Gesmundo
Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the Republic of the Philippines



The Hon. Sundaresh Menon
Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Singapore



The Hon. Adisak Tantiwong
President of the Supreme Court of the Kingdom of Thailand



The Hon. Afonso Carmona
President of the Court of Appeal of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste



H.E. Nguyen Van Dung
Justice of the Supreme People's Court,
Representative of the Chief Justice of the Supreme People's Court of the
Socialist Republic of Viet Nam

Signed this **22nd day of July 2026**
at Phnom Penh, Cambodia

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized, cursive script that is difficult to decipher but appears to be a personal name or initials.

The Hon. Chiv Keng
President of the Supreme Court of the Kingdom of Cambodia