



سيارن اخبار  
PRESS RELEASE

KEMENTERIAN KESIHATAN • Jalan Menteri Besar, Bandar Seri Begawan BB3910, Negara Brunei Darussalam.  
Tel: 2381640 samb./ext. 7734 • Faks/Fax: 2383016 • E-mel/E-mail: prohealth@brunet.bn

SIARAN AKHBAR 

**THE 13<sup>th</sup> ASEAN HEALTH MINISTERS MEETING (AHMM)  
AND OTHER RELATED MEETINGS  
Bandar Seri Begawan, 3-7 September 2017**

**Theme: Together Towards A Healthy ASEAN**

The Ministry of Health Brunei Darussalam is chairing and hosting the 13<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Health Ministers Meeting (AHMM) and Other Related Meetings. The meeting is held from September 3<sup>rd</sup> until September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at the International Convention Centre, Berakas.

The 13<sup>th</sup> AHMM is preceded by the Preparatory Senior Officials Meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> September which includes ASEAN Plus Three and ASEAN-China. There was also a retreat session of the 13<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Health Ministers Meeting on the 6<sup>th</sup> September 2017.

The 13<sup>th</sup> AHMM meeting began with a welcoming remark by Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr Haji Zulkarnain bin Haji Hanafi, Minister of Health, Brunei Darussalam. In his speech, he shared the progress made by the ASEAN community in the area of communicable diseases like polio, measles, malaria, as well as HIV and AIDS through shared commitment towards universal health coverage and ongoing investments in the health sector.

The Minister of Health also stressed the need for countries involved to continue to cooperate in addressing the more concerning health challenges in the region, that is on noncommunicable diseases, and ensure that the outcomes of the 13<sup>th</sup> Asean Health Ministers meeting is in line with the ASEAN post-2015 Health Development Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals.

This year, the 13<sup>th</sup> AHMM meeting is attended by 107 delegates, comprising of health ministers, and senior health officials from ASEAN, China, Japan and the Republic of Korea.

ASEAN Health Ministers Meeting (AHMM), is held once every two years. It is an ongoing meeting for the health ministers to discuss opportunities and challenges faced by the ASEAN community, determine the policies of ASEAN Health and endorses decisions as well as reports from the recent 12<sup>th</sup> Senior Officials Meetings on Health Development (SOMHD).

The theme for this year's AHMM is **Together Towards a Healthy ASEAN**, and the meeting will discuss as well as review the work of the **four main agendas which are: (1) Promoting Healthy Lifestyle; (2) Responding To All Hazards And Emerging Threats; (3) Strengthening Health Systems and Access to Care; and (4) Ensuring Food Safety.**

These discussions are highly relevant for the country as it is well aligned and-strongly support the three strategic priorities of the Ministry of Health: inculcating the message of "health is everyone's business", prevent and control non-communicable diseases, and to enhance the quality of service delivery through consolidation and realignment of healthcare services in the country.

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Date : 6 September 2017 / 15 Zulhijjah 1438

Reference : KK/PR/3