

**Report of the 1<sup>st</sup> Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) Summit**  
**State of Kuwait**  
**15 - 17 October 2012**

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- 1) At the initiative of His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Amir of the State of Kuwait, the First Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) Summit took place on 15-17 October 2012 in Kuwait City, the State of Kuwait.
  
- 2) The Summit commenced with the Inaugural Speech by His Highness the Amir of the State of Kuwait welcoming all delegates, including the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan as the 32<sup>nd</sup> member of the ACD. His Highness called for ACD Member States to increase cooperation in areas of trade, public health, education and technologies. His Highness also proposed that the ACD develop a working mechanism (i.e. Secretariat) to strengthen its work, the details of which are to be considered at an upcoming working group meeting, and offered the State of Kuwait to be its seat of such a mechanism. His Highness also called for mobilization of financial resources to finance development projects in non-Arab LDC Asian countries, and announced the State of Kuwait's contribution of 300 million USD.
  
- 3) Her Excellency the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand, as ACD Coordinator, made a statement calling for ACD Member States to act together to contribute to sustainable growth for Asia and beyond. To achieve this, Her Excellency proposed a Blueprint on Enhanced Infrastructure Connectivity and enhanced food and energy security. She also proposed that Thailand to host an annual consultation between Thailand and ACD Troika to better manage the cooperative process and called for ACD Member States to consider the idea of an ACD Secretariat.

She also announced that Thailand would host a Ministerial Meeting and the second ACD Summit in 2015.

- 4) Also attending the Summit were the Secretary General of the Arab League, Secretary General of Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), Secretary General of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), Representative of the Secretary General of the United Nations and Representative of the Secretary General of Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC). They recognized the continued and valuable efforts of the ACD in addressing regional and global issues while calling for closer regional cooperation for greater stability and prosperity.
- 5) ACD Member States then joined in to welcome the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan as the newest member.
- 6) Brunei Darussalam recalled the inauguration of the ACD in 2002 while noting that gaps and challenges still exist, and suggested that education was the best way to prepare our young people to respond to these challenges.
- 7) Bangladesh opined that establishing an ACD Secretariat would enhance cooperation among ACD Member States, and recognized the contribution of the ACD to the development of Asia, including in finance, energy security, food security as well as investment in the fields of agriculture, education, and development of an Asia e-University.
- 8) Sri Lanka emphasized the uniqueness of the ACD's core values, including voluntarism and non-institutionalization. It also emphasized the importance of cooperation in the areas of food, energy, education, human resources development, climate change, and proposed that a study group be launched to map out the future direction of the ACD.

- 9) Oman expressed its strong belief that the First ACD Summit would stimulate dialogue and development of the ACD, including a work plan to enhance cooperation in various areas, especially in the field of development.
- 10) Afghanistan stated its confidence in the ACD, in particular its potential to help consolidate Asia's strength for the well-being of Asia and beyond. It also thanked ACD Member States for supporting its membership and reiterated its commitment to support the work of the ACD.
- 11) Tajikistan stated its strong interest in deepening cooperation in areas of economic integration, investment, transport, communication, infrastructure linkages and natural disaster rehabilitation. It expressed concern over the lack of access to electricity and suggested that the ACD attach priority to energy cooperation. It then proposed to host an ACD Energy Summit/Forum and shared its experience in promoting energy security, including its participation in the *Sustainable Energy for All* initiative, its reduction in traditional fuels consumption and its use and development of renewable energy sources, particularly hydropower. Tajikistan also supported setting up an ACD Secretariat.
- 12) Iran stressed the potential of Asia and called for closer cooperation in cultural exchanges to enhance people-to-people contacts. It also called for ACD Member States to preserve Asian culture, encourage exchanges of high-level visits, promote commercial ties and remove trade barriers.
- 13) Malaysia stressed the need to address challenges in food and energy security as well as impacts from global economic outlook. It also emphasized the importance of improved logistics infrastructure and encouraged the ACD to engage more with the private sector. Malaysia

- also recognized that it was time for the ACD to transform itself. It welcomed Kuwait's commitment to contribute to finance development projects as well as the proposal of Kuwait and Thailand to convene a working group to discuss strengthening ACD working mechanisms.
- 14) Pakistan stressed the need for ACD Member States to coordinate their policies more closely to cushion Asia from external interferences. It also called for closer cooperation in food security, energy security, poverty alleviation, environment and regional connectivity and urged the ACD Member States to promote peace and stability. It also announced that Islamabad would host the 2<sup>nd</sup> ACD Energy Forum.
  - 15) Saudi Arabia stressed the importance of cultural cooperation and the need to intensify cooperation to promote economic stability and reduce poverty. It also encouraged cooperation with the international community in the exchange of expertise in the field of environmental protection, including pollution control, environmental law, protection of marine natural resources and research.
  - 16) China addressed opportunities and challenges of Asia, and stressed the importance of pan-Asian cooperation. It encouraged the ACD to promote awareness and focus on implementation of concrete cooperation. It called for more cooperation in various fields, including education, tourism, youth exchanges as well as food security, energy security and connectivity.
  - 17) Singapore commented on the progress of the ACD and agreed that the ACD working mechanism should help bring about concrete benefits to ACD Member States.
  - 18) Lao PDR urged ACD Member States to intensify cooperation in all twenty priority areas and suggested that ACD Member States explore ways to

ensure food and energy security, especially to explore a strategy on sustainable energy development in view of assisting the non-oil countries and enhance physical connectivity. Lao PDR also expressed its gratitude to His Highness the Amir of the State of Kuwait for the announcement of the generous 300 million USD contribution. On the proposal to establish an ACD secretariat, Lao PDR suggested that ACD officials undertake further studies, in consultation with their countries' respective eminent persons, and submit outcomes of the studies at the next ACD Ministerial Meeting for consideration.

- 19) India reported progress of its work in the areas of biotechnology, transportation and Track II participation. It also expressed the view that the ACD process should take a gradual and evolutionary approach with respect to institutionalization and that perhaps senior officials meetings should be convened for better coordination among all Member States.
- 20) Mongolia expressed its interest in strengthening cooperation in areas of agriculture, environment and tourism. It also called for a consideration of a new structure of the ACD and noted that the ACD should have a sound and effective financial mechanism.
- 21) Indonesia suggested that the ACD attach priority to trade and investment, energy and food security, and regional connectivity. It also reported that the Prime and Co-Prime Movers in energy cooperation had prepared a draft ACD Action Plan to optimize the use of renewable and green energy.
- 22) Japan reiterated its commitment to cooperation in environmental studies and legal infrastructure. It suggested that the ACD focus on food security and energy security by cooperating with international agencies. Japan also encouraged ACD Member States to reduce trade barriers and promote

- better policy coordination. It also encouraged youth exchanges to foster better understanding among Asian peoples.
- 23) Russia reiterated its interest in sustainable development and energy efficiency. It also focused on equal opportunity to multidimensional development. It also shared its experiences in the APEC framework, and reported on the outcome of the ACD disaster prevention and management activity that it hosted in May 2012.
  - 24) Bhutan recognized numerous challenges facing ACD Member States, including food security, energy security, water security and employment and urged the Member States to deepen cooperation in these priority areas. It also shared with the Member States the idea behind its Gross National Happiness index to measure the quality of life in terms of non-material needs.
  - 25) The Republic of Korea emphasized its role as Prime Mover in IT Development and expressed its commitment to reduce the intra-regional digital divide. It discussed strengthening global cooperation in green growth. The Republic of Korea also encouraged cooperation among Asian countries and gave examples of its work under the ASEAN Plus Three framework.
  - 26) Bahrain opined that the ACD mechanism should and could be enhanced to help ACD Member States tackle regional and global issues. It suggested the ACD to focus on capacity building projects for workers and increase its cooperation with other regional economic groupings. Bahrain also praised the State of Kuwait's announcement of the initial 300 million USD donation to finance development projects in the region.

- 27) Cambodia attached importance to cooperation in the areas of climate change, energy security and food security, and reiterated its commitment to promote cooperation in tourism and poverty alleviation. It also called for fair trade and urged ACD Member States to increase cooperation in disaster management, including with the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre). Cambodia also commended His Highness the Amir's announcement of the 300 million USD contribution pledged to finance development projects in ACD Member States.
- 28) Viet Nam praised the ACD's role in regional development and in promoting peace, prosperity and harmony in the region. It emphasized the importance of enhancing Asia's adaptability such as developing domestic sources of growth and renovating growth models while boosting financial integration and intraregional trade as the region faces economic challenges. It called on the need to address the nexus of water, food and energy security. It also emphasized the importance of logistics and infrastructure development in promoting economic growth as well as the need to fill in the 'missing links' between Asia's sub-regions. It commended the initiative of the State of Kuwait for its contribution to the development fund.
- 29) Myanmar expressed its full support and commitment to all twenty areas of ACD cooperation, in particular food security, energy security, exchange of technology, and sharing practices on disaster management. It also supported Thailand's proposal to prepare a Blueprint on Enhanced Infrastructure Connectivity, and called for closer cooperation in biotechnology.
- 30) The Kyrgyz Republic made a suggestion for ACD Member States to deepen economic cooperation and develop trade routes and efficient

transportation and communication for development of Asia. It also called for more cooperation in the fields of food and energy security, exchange of visits and travels, and environmental-safety.

- 31) The Philippines stressed the importance of cooperation in environment, sustainable development, as well as energy security, as it is a Co-Prime Mover in the last field. It also addressed the need to cooperate in education that could help to promote understanding among peoples of different cultures and religions. The Philippines recognized the pledged contribution of the State of Kuwait to the ACD development fund, and welcomed the proposal of Kuwait and Thailand to convene an expert meeting to discuss ACD mechanisms, while suggesting that issues concerning barriers of cooperation be revisited and encouraged more active participation of Member States.
- 32) Her Excellency the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand reaffirmed Thailand's commitment to work together with fellow ACD Member States to strengthen the ACD mechanism, including by preparing a summary of the proposals made at this Summit so that ACD Ministers have substantive discussions at the next Ministerial Meeting in Tajikistan in 2013.
- 33) The Islamic Republic of Iran also announced that it offered to host the Third ACD Summit in 2018.
- 34) ACD Member States expressed their appreciation to the Kingdom of Thailand for its role as ACD Coordinator over the past decade, as well as extended their congratulations to the State of Kuwait for the successful First ACD Summit as well as the very generous and warm hospitality.

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**List of Heads of Delegation**  
**1<sup>st</sup> ACD Summit**  
**State of Kuwait, 15 - 17 October 2012**

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| Afghanistan       | H.E. Mr. Hamid Karzai, President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan                     |
| Bahrain           | H.M. King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, King of the Kingdom of Bahrain                          |
| Bangladesh        | Hon. Mr. Md. Zillur Rahman, President of the People's Republic of Bangladesh                |
| Bhutan            | H.E. Mr. Lyonpo Wangdi Norbu, Finance Minister, Kingdom of Bhutan                           |
| Brunei Darussalam | H.M. Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan of Brunei Darussalam        |
| Cambodia          | H.E. Mr. Roland Eng, Special Envoy, Kingdom of Cambodia                                     |
| China             | H.E. Mr. Sun Jiazheng, Special Representative, People's Republic of China                   |
| India             | H.E. Mr. Shri E. Ahamed, Minister of State for External Affairs, Republic of India          |
| Indonesia         | H.E. Ir. M. Hatta Rajasa, Coordinating Minister for Economic Affairs, Republic of Indonesia |
| Iran              | H.E. Dr. Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, President of the Islamic Republic of Iran                     |
| Japan             | H.E. Mr. Naoki Kazama, Parliamentary Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs, Japan                |
| Kazakhstan        | H.E. Mr. A. Mamytbekov, Minister of Agriculture, Republic of Kazakhstan                     |
| Kuwait            | H.H. Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Amir of the State of Kuwait                   |

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| Kyrgyz Republic   | H.E. Mrs. Samargul Adamkulova, Deputy Foreign Minister, Kyrgyz Republic   |
| Republic of Korea | H.E. Mr. Kim Kyou-hyun, Deputy Minister for Political Affairs, Republic of Korea  |
| Lao PDR           | H.E. Mr. Somsavat Kengsavad, Deputy Prime Minister, Lao People's Democratic Republic  |
| Malaysia          | H.E. Tan Sri Dato' Hj Muhyiddin bin Haji Mohd. Yassin, Deputy Prime Minister, Malaysia  |
| Mongolia          | H.E. Mr. Dambiniam O., Ambassador-at-large, Mongolia  |
| Myanmar           | H.E. U Thant Kyaw, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, Republic of the Union of Myanmar  |
| Oman              | H.H. Sayyid Shihab bin Tariq Al-Said, Special Representative, Sultanate of Oman   |
| Pakistan          | H.E. Mr. Raja Pervaiz Ashraf, Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan  |
| Philippines       | Congressman Al Francis Bichara, Republic of the Philippines   |
| Qatar             | H.H. Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar  |
| Russia            | H.E. Mr. Igor V. Morgulov, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Russian Federation   |
| Saudi Arabia      | H.R.H. Prince Abdulaziz bin Abdullah bin Abdulaziz, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia                           |
| Singapore         | H.E. Mr. Sam Tan, Senior Parliamentary Secretary for Foreign Affairs and Community Development, Youth and Sports, Republic of Singapore |
| Sri Lanka         | H.E. Mr. Mahinda Rajapaksa, President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka   |
| Tajikistan        | H.E. Mr. Emomali Rahmon, President of the Republic of Tajikistan  |

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| Thailand   | H.E. Ms. Yingluck Shinawatra, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand   |
| UAE        | H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al-Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates, and Ruler of Dubai |
| Uzbekistan | H.E. Mr. Akramov Ilkhom, Ambassador of the Republic of Uzbekistan to the Islamic Republic of Iran                             |
| Viet Nam   | H.E. Mr. Le Luong Minh, Deputy Foreign Minister, Socialist Republic of Viet Nam   |

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