# ACD Blueprint 2017 - 2021

## 1. Connectivity

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<th>No.</th>
<th>Objectives</th>
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</table>
| 1a  | - to achieve seamless, multidimensional, pan-Asian connectivity networks  
- to promote the development of socially and environmentally sustainable connectivity infrastructures | - establish a Working Group on Connectivity  
- fill missing links and upgrade land, sea and air transportation, capacity and frequency by synergizing efforts from existing sub-regional and regional transport connectivity frameworks in Central and West Asia (CAREC), in East Asia and South East Asia (GMS, IMT-GT, ASEAN), in South Asia (SASEC, BIMSTEC, SAARC), etc.¹ as a means to improve social equity, health, resilience of cities, urban-rural linkages, rural area productivity, etc.  
- develop telecommunication connectivity in order to reduce the digital divide and the cost of internet access  
- enhance capacity building and the use of best practices in infrastructure and development planning  
- establish a continent-wide platform that adopts multi-stakeholder deliberations on regional infrastructure development  
- establish effective mechanism to mobilize existing funds in the region in collaboration with Multilateral Development Banks and the private sector to support connectivity in infrastructure necessary for regional integration  
- seek engagement with UNESCAP whose work has been done extensively to promote implementation of pan-Asian transport and telecommunication connectivity |

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¹ As proposed in Road Map for ACD Regional Connectivity as of 6 May 2015
1b - to build institutional connectivity in the areas of transportation, trade and investment, finance, etc.

- examine existing rules, regulations and standards in ACD Member States related to transportation, trade and investment
- strive for the creation of an enabling business environment in ACD, reduce administrative and regulatory business roadblocks
- promote the development and utilization of information and communications technology
- engage the private sector in the effort to alleviate logistical chokeholds and supply-chain bottlenecks

2. Science, Technology and Innovation (STI)

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| 2a  | - to enhance capacity on STI and cross-border talent mobility within ACD  
- to improve STI infrastructures | - establish a Working Group on STI  
- organize seminars, forums, symposiums, etc. for exchange and sharing of knowledge and expertise in STI as well as networking  
- promote STEM education and work-integrated learning, especially among the youth, by granting scholarships, organizing science camps and competitions, etc.  
- set up a platform to jointly conduct advanced scientific research, develop technology and innovation in ACD  
- provide sufficient and high-quality laboratories, STI demonstration and transfer centers, scientific parks, business incubators, etc. |
| 2b  | - to reinforce ACD economic competitiveness through STI  
- to realize digital economy in ACD | - promote STI start-ups to make ACD’s environment dynamic  
- improve production capacity, doing business, education, public health, administration, as well as other socio-economic activities using information and communications technology |

2 Idem
### 3. Education and Human Resource Development

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| 3a  | - to improve access to and quality of education and create opportunities for human resource development  
- forge a better perspective of the roles and responsibilities of the new generations as global citizens  
- to develop competitive workforce | - establish a Working Group on Education and Human Resource Development  
- encourage access to inclusive quality education and materials using technologies such as Internet-based distance learning, Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs), Open Educational Resources (OERs), mobile delivery systems, etc.  
- enhance capacity of educators and administrative personnel  
- encourage exchanges between schools, universities, vocational colleges, and research institutions in key areas such as medicine, agriculture, tourism, STI, etc. through various platforms\(^4\)  
- Encourage cooperation and activities under the ACD University Network  
- provide standardized knowledge and professional skillsets necessary to meet the needs of the 21\(^{st}\) Century marketplace |
| 3b  | - to improve knowledge dissemination to the ACD public and make ACD a knowledge-based region | - organize seminars, forums, roundtables, debates, etc. which invite public participation  
- improve financial and digital literacy in ACD \(^5\) |

### 4. Interrelation of Food, Energy and Water Security

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| 4a  | - to meet Asia’s increasing needs of food, energy and water sustainably  
- to ensure a sustainable balance among the nexus of water, food and energy demand | - establish a Working Group on Food, Energy and Water Security  
- achieve food, energy and water security through diversification, development and conservation of resources  
- seek new opportunities to increase food production and improve food processing  
- enhance energy generation efficiency from both conventional and alternative sources, develop environmentally friendly energy technologies as well as |

\(^4\) Idem  
\(^5\) Idem
technology transfer within ACD, set up a secure energy infrastructure network and develop the pan-Asian energy market\(^6\)
- renew the ACD Energy Action Plan endorsed at the 12\(^{th}\) ACD Ministerial Meeting
- formulate a comprehensive water resource management scheme, including an integrated water management scheme for transboundary water resources
- promote collaboration in research, institutional capacity building and human resource development
- ensure that costs and benefits of the policy planning based on the interrelation approach are equitably distributed to avoid any possible disincentive to the development in the 3 sectors

| 4b | - to enhance a synergistic collaboration, coordination and communication between all stakeholders to promote public-private-people partnership | - establish an innovative mechanism of collaboration between government, private sector, academia and civil society for technology transfer through capacity building and knowledge sharing
- raise awareness and sensitiveness of all stakeholders to various risks emerging from rapidly changing and often unpredictable environmental conditions
- share, utilize and leverage public information, platforms and forums to encourage cooperation with businesses and peoples. |

### 5. Culture and Tourism

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<td>5a</td>
<td>- to enhance mutual understanding across cultural diversity</td>
<td>- promote people-to-people contacts through cultural exchange, language learning, tourism, etc.</td>
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| 5b  | - to make ACD a top tourist destination that is responsible, sustainable and safe | - establish a Working Group on Tourism
- diversify and upgrade ACD tourism industry
- intensify promotion and marketing through joint operation |

\(^6\) Idem
- facilitate travel for intra-Asian tourism
- promote capacity building and human resource development in tourism sector
- strengthen the safety and security of tourists

### 6. Promoting Approaches to Inclusive and Sustainable Development

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| 6a  | - to achieve self-reliance and independent sustainable development  
- to seek synergy between homegrown approaches to sustainable and inclusive development | - establish a Working Group on Sustainable Development  
- set up a platform where different approaches to sustainable and inclusive development can be shared and worked upon to generate synergy and best practices  
- share homegrown approach towards sustainable development in the ACD (Thailand will share with all ACD Member States its Sufficiency Economy Philosophy (SEP), a holistic approach towards sustainability centered on moderation and resiliency.)  
- establish a platform for policy consultation |
| 6b  | - to support Member Countries in implementing United Nations’ 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development  
- to build or enhance poverty reduction capacity | - share knowledge and mobilize resources for the implementation of United Nations’ 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development  
- organize trainings, mutual visits of experts, etc. to share expertise on poverty alleviation  
- to publicize successful poverty reduction models |