



His Excellency the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand

Your Majesties, Excellencies and Highnesses

Peace, mercy and blessings of God be upon you all.

I am pleased at the outset to express my sincere thanks and appreciation to the Kingdom of Thailand, His Majesty the King, the government and people, where the idea of the Asian Cooperation Dialogue was initiated, for their hospitality and warm reception and for the prominent preparation for this important meeting. I am also pleased to welcome the Republic of Turkey and the Democratic Republic of Nepal as new members of the ACD, to contribute to, and support our collective work for a brighter future for our continent.

We meet today while our continent is still confronting serious challenges and dangers. We all suffered from devastating wars in different parts of our continent, leaving several victims, sapped its economies, and hampered its ability to achieve the required development rates. Today, our societies suffer even increasing challenges like poverty, the low level of health care, illiteracy, environmental problems, and rapid population growth. Although we recognize the importance of collective work to confront such challenges, our Asian collective work is still not up to our hopes and aspirations, and still not reflecting the importance of our Asian sprawling area and population.



The limited steps that have been completed since the first summit in Kuwait in the creation of a body of academic cooperation and in the establishment of the business and the private sector body are not sufficient. We have the common elements and the potential of a diverse and multi-form solid ground to achieve the hopes and aspirations of our people and the security and stability of our countries in all fields. We are required to respect our covenants and agreements, and work to resolve our conflicts through peaceful means to offer the world an elite model in international dealings that preserves the integrity of our countries and the development of our societies.

We are also compelled to defend the international charters and traditions that govern our world, in light of the recently approved law to fight terrorism (JASTA) in the United State of America, which breaches and violates the international charters and traditions harming all of our common interests .

My country, Kuwait, realizes the importance of its Asian surroundings, and has worked on elevating the collective Asian work to achieve this view via hosting the ACD general secretariat the past three years, and working toward the six fields of cooperation in the ACD and to join them with the fields of communication and sustainable development in the believe of the important work in these two fields. Furthermore, our announcement in the Kuwait Summit of an initiative for mobilizing financial resources of US\$ 2 billion, and Kuwait's participation of a part thereof, is part of such keenness. We hereby invite other countries to participate in this program to enable it achieve its noble objectives.



The paper submitted by the Kingdom of Thailand to the conference contains distinguished ideas and vision that embodies ACD distinct look until 2030. This vision reflects our determination to cooperate, and develop plans to move forward in this cooperation. The plan also draws a broader prospect for our cooperation which we all look forward to achieve. On our part, we emphasize on importance of this vision in the embodiment of the aims and objectives of our cooperation.

In conclusion, I would like to thank you all, and to thank the general secretariat for their efforts in preparation for this conference. Wishing our work all success.

Peace, mercy and blessings of God be upon you all.