

**SPEECH DELIVERED  
BY H.E MR. HAKKI EMRE YUNT, AMBASSADOR,  
DIRECTOR GENERAL AT THE 2nd ACD SUMMIT  
(Bangkok, 10 October 2016)**

**Your Excellency, General Prayut Chan-o-cha  
Prime Minister of Thailand,  
Distinguished Heads of Delegations and Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

At the outset, I express my sincere thanks to Government of the Kingdom of Thailand, for the warm hospitality offered to us in this beautiful city of Bangkok.

Also allow me to congratulate you for the excellent work you have accomplished during ACD Chairmanship.

**Excellencies,**

Turkey's relations with Asian countries has gained considerable depth in recent years.

We have intensified our ties with the Asia region, which resulted in enhanced trade and investments.

We have widened our diplomatic network in the region by opening new Embassies in Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Cambodia and Brunei during the last four years. The number of our diplomatic representations in the region has reached to 14.

Turkey will have achieved full diplomatic representation in all 10 ASEAN member countries by the time we open an Embassy in Laos.

As one of the fastest growing airlines in the world, Turkish Airlines is strategically expanding its network into Russia, Central Asia and Far East Asia and increasing its flight frequencies in the continent.

### **Excellencies,**

Turkey, engages Asian countries through international organizations like CICA. We held the Chairmanship of CICA (*Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia*) between 2010-2014.

We are a Dialogue Partner of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and Post-Forum Dialogue Partner of Pacific Islands' Forum (PIF).

Turkey has recently applied to be a “Sectoral Dialogue Partner” with ASEAN.

Of course, ACD is no exception. We are very pleased to be part of this important Forum since 2013 and we have strong reasons for that.

ACD is a home-grown regional initiative embracing all the countries from the Mediterranean to the Pacific; from the Arctic Sea to the Indian Ocean.

Turkey values the geographical, cultural and religious diversity among the ACD members as an asset and as an opportunity for a wider dialogue. Even the theme of this Summit is “*One Asia, Diverse Strengths*” which fits very well to the aim and spirit of this platform.

Besides promoting mutual understanding, ACD has a prominent role to play in strengthening regional cooperation and identifying Asia’s strengths and challenges.

Thanks to all these assets, the number of its members has extended from 18 to 34 countries since the idea of the ACD was first proposed by our Thai friends.

**Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

This Summit has a special meaning in the sense that, ACD will be celebrating its 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary next year.

In this regard, three documents we will accept today: “*ACD Vision for Asia Cooperation 2030*”, “*ACD Statement on Reigniting Growth Through Partnership for Connectivity*” and the “*Bangkok Declaration*” will constitute important references and roadmaps for our future works.

Further that, we have shown our ownership to the principles of sovereign equality and non-interference between the states on this occasion.

Besides these documents, the “*ACD Connect Business Forum 2016*” that we organized yesterday was a very fruitful occasion for our entrepreneurs and business circles to know each other and exchange views.

Considering the fact that, ACD is home to some of the fastest growing economies in the world, this kind of gatherings are quite

important to discuss how to use better our great economic potential and dynamism.

We believe that the rise of Asia in the global economy will be further strengthened as ACD achievements progress. Turkey will always be ready to be an active partner in this process.

**Mr Chairman,**  
**Distinguished Heads of Delegations and Delegates,**  
**Mr Secretary General,**

We appreciate the welcoming remarks of all the countries for the membership of Turkey to the ACD.

I would like to thank again to Thailand for the excellent hospitality shown to us and for successfully organizing this Summit.

I also extend my best wishes of success to the United Arab Emirates for the incoming Chairmanship.

Last but not least, I would like to convey appreciation to the State of Kuwait not only for generously hosting the Secretariat of ACD but also for their dedicative support and valuable efforts for the evolution of this platform.

Thank you for your attention.