**REMARKS**

**OF**

**HON. ALFONSO G. CUSI**

**SECRETARY OF ENERGY**

**2nd Summit of the Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD)**

***Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Sri Ayudhya, Bangkok, Thailand***

**10 October 2016**

Your Excellency Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha,

Your Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, of Kuwait, the host of the 1st ACD Summit,

Your Excellency Dr. Thani Ahmed Al Zaeyoudi, of the United Arab Emirates, our new Chair,

Your Majesty, Your Highnesses and Excellencies,

Fellow Heads of Delegations,

At the onset, I wish to extend the greetings of President Rodrigo Roa Duterte to this august gathering.

The Philippines would like to express its appreciation to the Kingdom of Thailand for graciously hosting the Second Summit of the Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) and for the excellent arrangements provided to the Philippine delegation and all here present.

The Philippines has been with the ACD since its birth. As a founding member of the ACD, the Philippines is pleased to note the progress achieved through the Dialogue towards an inclusive, prosperous and stable Asian region.

This second ACD Summit serves as the watermark of our firm desire to reinvigorate our 14 years of cooperation and engagement within the ACD, keeping in mind the changes that had taken place and continue to take place in the global landscape since the ACD was inaugurated in June 2002 in Thailand. It is most notable that the ACD has grown from only 18 members in 2002 to 34 members today.

Given the challenges and opportunities facing the ACD today, the Philippines congratulates and warmly welcomes the United Arab Emirates as the new Chair of the Asia Cooperation Dialogue. The Philippines recognizes the UAE’s commitment in shaping the direction of the ACD as a regional forum, especially in energy security matters. The Philippines, as one of the founding members of the ACD wishes to actively engage in the ACD as co-prime mover in three (3) out of the six (6) pillars of ACD Cooperation, namely, 'Interrelation of Food, Water and Energy Security,' 'Science, Technology, and Innovation,' and 'Education and Human Resource Development.'

As an ACD Co-Prime Mover in the first pillar, the Philippines supports the proposed theme “Abu Dhabi, Capital of Sustainable Energy” under the UAE chairmanship as well as the renewal of the ACD Energy Action Plan. The Philippines looks forward to working closely with the UAE in promoting our advocacy for the greater use of sustainable and renewable energy in advancing economic development in the pan-Asian region.

The Philippines therefore looks forward to welcoming your representatives to our country next year as we host a high-level “Conference on Energy Security and Sustainability” that will include private sector participation aimed as a follow up to the work of the first Pillar and Energy Action Plan. We look forward to learning from each other through the exchange of ideas, views and best practices on this most important of fields.

The holding of our meetings and implementation of initiatives in the various ACD member countries provide our people first-hand experience of the sights and sounds of their host countries and a better appreciation and understanding of local cultures. Building on the gains made at the first ACD Tourism Ministerial Meeting held in Tabriz, Iran last August, the Philippines looks forward to further strengthen the link between tourism promotion and cooperation and the use of energy-efficient, green technologies by relevant stakeholders in the tourism sector.

I take this opportunity to commend the State of Kuwait for its hosting of and generous support to the ACD Secretariat and for its commitment of continued support to establish the permanent ACD Secretariat.

I would also like to extend a warm welcome to Turkey and Nepal as the new members of the ACD. Their membership is an affirmation of the desire of countries in Asia for regional cooperation and dialogue for economic development.

In closing, I would like to express sincerest appreciation to Thailand for all its hard work and dedication as outgoing Chair of the ACD in charting the way forward for us through the ACD Vision 2030. Thailand was the birthplace of the ACD in 2002 and it is most fitting that Thailand would be at the vanguard of efforts to revitalize the ACD and to streamline cooperation in step with our vision of a stable and prosperous pan-Asian region.

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