

## **Engagement of the private sector and academics**

While the government authority is an intrinsic actor of this forum, the involvement of private sector and academics is also an essential component of an effective, comprehensive and inclusive cooperation. Developing a strong partnership between public-private-academic sectors is a cornerstone for the ACD to achieve more tangible successes.

### **Developing partnerships with the private sector**

As often mentioned in ACD's declarations, the ACD encourages private sector's participation as a tool to further produce tangible outcomes of the forum. Nonetheless, the partnership between the ACD and the private sector is still an initiative without a supporting mechanism. The creation of the ACD Business Forum will be the first mechanism to propel the ACD's partnership with private sector. The ACD Business Forum will focus on multidimensional economics, for instance industrial and Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) cooperation. The ACD Business Forum should be convened as the ACD's annual event and hosted by the ACD Member States.

### **Revitalizing partnerships with academics**

Within the last decade, the ACD has started its First ACD Think Tank Symposium in 2004, hosted by the Kingdom of Thailand, and established the Asian e-University (AeU) in 2008 in Malaysia. At present, the secretariat is of the view that along with the revitalization the of ACD, emphasis should be placed the AeU as well as revitalize the partnerships with the academia especially in the field of higher education and capacity building for academic resources, namely teachers, researchers and students. By sharing resources and building academic partnerships within the ACD's countries, Asia can strengthen its education, knowledge-based economy, innovation and creativity.