



Report of the Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM) of the 15th ACD Ministerial Meeting
Monday 16th January 2017, 3.00 PM - 7.00 PM
Anantara Eastern Mangrove Hotel, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

- (1) The Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM) of the 15th Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) Ministerial Meeting took place on Monday 16th January 2017 at Ballroom, Anantara Eastern Mangrove Hotel, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.
- (2) The United Arab Emirates by H.E. Mohammed Sharaf, Assistance Foreign Minister of Economic Affairs, as the ACD Chair and the host of the Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM) of the 15th ACD Ministerial Meeting welcomed all distinguished delegates to the Senior Officials' Meeting and expressed appreciation for all participations. The Chair, then, adopted the agenda of SOM and highlighted the importance of ACD as the forum for Asia region.
- (3) The Past Chair, the Kingdom of Thailand, by H.E. Mr. Chutintorn Gongsakdi, started his statement with expressing Thailand's appreciation to the UAE government for the leadership and efforts.
 - After expressed appreciation to the Prime Movers and all the Co-Prime Movers in the pillar of Food, Energy and Water Security for their seriousness, as reflected in the Prime and Co-prime Movers' Consultation on 20 December 2016 and the (renewed) ACD Energy Action Plan, H.E. Mr. Chutintorn Gongsakdi expressed Thailand's interest in joining all the Working Groups in the near future.
 - With regards to the pillar Promoting Approaches to Inclusive and Sustainable Development, Thailand, as the Prime Mover of this pillar, affirmed their respect to each country's home-grown approaches to development, for example the "Sufficiency Economy Philosophy" by the late King Bhumibol Adulyadej. In this relation, Thailand (1) proposed the establishment of the ACD Working Group on Sustainable Development in August 2017; (2) expressed interest in convening a consultation with the Co-Prime Movers within the pillar Promoting Approaches to Inclusive and Sustainable Development; and (3) informed the meeting that Thailand has circulated a Concept Note on "Promoting Approaches to Inclusive and Sustainable Development" through the ACD Secretariat for comments from Co-Prime Movers of this pillar.
 - In this relation, Thailand expressed intention to launch an international training programme on "Microcredit and Sufficiency Economy Development" during 20 August – 2 September 2017, and informed the meeting that 20 participants from ACD Member States will be invited to this training programme (number is still flexible) and encouraged the ACD Member States to express your interests to Thailand or through the ACD Secretariat at the earliest opportunity.



H.E. Mr. Chutintorn Gongsakdi continued his statement by highlighting the importance of nexus approach to food, energy and water security as a way to build Asia's synergies and greater efficiency, and inform the meeting that, Thailand, as the host of the 7th Asian Ministerial Energy Roundtable (AMER) in November 2017, is considering to host an ACD-related event back-to-back or as a side event of the AMER Meeting. At the end of his statement, referring to the 2nd ACD Summit, he expressed his hope for an appropriate legal status and a concluded host country agreement between the ACD Secretariat and the Government of Kuwait to reassure the effective operation of the ACD process.

(4) The ACD Secretary General, Mr. Bundit Limschoon, made a report of Past ACD Activities (2015-2016) and Anticipated Activities ACD Activities (2017-2018) by highlighting the progress of ACD's cooperation under the 6 priority pillars.

- He started with the pillar Interrelation of Food, Water, and Energy Security by thanking the UAE for hosting the High-level Meeting of Prime and Co-prime Movers' Consultation on 20 December 2016. The said meeting underlined the importance of nexus of the three elements (food, water and energy) as well as method and scope of work with due consideration to the important role of private sector and academia, technology, innovation, research and development (R&D). The result of such consultation is reflected in the Energy Action Plan, which was endorsed by the Energy Working Group on 15 January 2016.
- The ACD Secretary General continued with the progress of pillar Education and Human Resource development, in which the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, as the Prime Mover, took the first step forward by inviting the ACD Secretariat to Riyadh in October 2016 to consult with high-level officials from related authorities.
- He, then, reported the progress of the pillar Culture and Tourism by underscoring the close coordination between the Secretariat and the Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia in preparing for the 2nd ACD Ministerial Meeting on Tourism, which will be held in Siem Reap, Cambodia during 12-15 June 2017.
- He also reported the progress of the pillar Promoting Approaches to Inclusive and Sustainable Development by informing the meeting that Thailand, as the Prime Mover, has circulated the concept note to its Co-Prime Movers for consideration and announced an open-ended Working Group Meeting on Sustainable Development.

After encouraged the other Prime and Co-prime Movers to communicate within their pillars, the Secretary General mentioned the initiative of the roundtable meeting of Secretaries-General of forums and organisations in Asia, which the Kingdom of Bahrain offered to host the said meeting in 2017. The purpose of the meeting is according to paragraph no. 6 of the Bangkok Declaration encouraging ACD to establish and promote dialogues with international, regional and sub-regional forums and organisations in Asia. The Secretary general concluded his report by highlighting that, in accordance with the paragraph no. 5 of



Bangkok Declaration, the ACD Secretariat is working closely with the Government of Kuwait to develop further refinements to the Secretariat's operation, such as ACD's appropriate legal status, the effective operation of the ACD Secretariat.

(5) The Meeting approved the draft agenda and format of the 15th ACD Ministerial Meeting, then, discussed the two outcome documents of the 15th ACD Ministerial Meeting, namely, Abu Dhabi Declaration and (renewed) ACD Energy Action Plan. The SOM focused on the three pending issues from the Drafting Committee which are (a) Malaysia's proposal of to acknowledge the importance of moderation as a balanced approach, (b) Bahrain's proposal to host the ACD Meeting with other Secretaries General of regional organizations/fora in Asia and (c) Japan, China, Russia and Kazakhstan's proposals to include their initiatives in the Declaration.

(6) At the end of the meeting, all ACD Member States agreed upon the draft Declaration and draft (renewed) ACD Energy Action Plan to be tabled for all Ministers' consideration tomorrow, however with a reservation from Russia on the Malaysia's proposal to include the word moderation. The Chair recommended Russia and Malaysia to finalize the said issue before the Ministerial Meeting on 17 January 2017.

(7) The Chair expressed his appreciation and concluded the meeting.

ACD Secretariat
3 April 2017



ANNEX I

List of Senior Officials of the Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM)

Islamic Republic of Afghanistan	H.E. Abdul Farid Zikria	Afghanistan Ambassador to UAE
The Kingdom of Bahrain	H.E. Dr Shaikha Rana Bint Isa Al Khalifa	Assistant Undersecretary for Arab affairs and the Afro-Asian organizations
The People's Republic of Bangladesh	H.E. Mr. Muhammad Imran	Ambassador of Bangladesh to the UAE
The Kingdom of Bhutan	Mr. Sangye Chewang	Chief of Division, Department of SAARC & Regional Organization
Brunei Darussalam	Mr. Abdul Hakeem Basir	Head, Office of the Minister of Energy and Industry
The Kingdom of Cambodia	H.E. Mr. Tan Bunpa	Ambassador of Cambodia to Kuwait
The People's Republic of China	H.E. CHEN Mingming	Representative of Chinese Foreign Minister WANG Yi, and China's ACD Senior Official
The Republic of India	H.E. Mr. Jaideep Mazumdar	Joint Secretary (South), Ministry of Foreign Affairs
The Republic of Indonesia	H.E. Husin Bagis	Ambassador of Indonesia to UAE
The Islamic Republic of Iran	H.E. Majid Abdolnabi Bizmark	Director General for International Environment and Sustainable Development of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Japan	Mr. Kotaro Suzuki	Minister & Deputy Head of Mission
The Republic of Kazakhstan	H.E. Mr. Alibek Bakayev	
The Republic of Korea	Mr. Moon Byung -Jun	Director for Middle East Division
The State of Kuwait	H.E. Ali Solaiman Al Saeed	Assistant Foreign Minister for Asian Affairs



The Kyrgyz Republic	H.E. Muratbek Azymbakiev	Director of the Third Political Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
The Lao People's Democratic Republic	Mr. Songkane Luangmuninthone	Director General of Economic Affairs Department
Malaysia	H.E. Dato' Ahmad Anwar bin Adnan	Ambassador of Malaysia to the UAE
Mongolia	Mr. BILGUUN Nyamjav	Charge d' Affaires of the Embassy of Mongolia in Kuwait
Republic of Union of Myanmar	Mr. Aung Ko	Deputy Director General Political Department
Nepal		
The Sultanate of Oman	H.E. Yahya Abdullah Salim Al Fanna	Ambassador of Oman to the UAE
The Islamic Republic of Pakistan	H.E. Moazzam Ahmad Khan	Ambassador of Pakistan to UAE
The Republic of The Philippines	H.E. Manuel Antonio Teehankee	Undersecretary, Office of International Economic Relations
The State of Qatar	H.E. Hadi Nasser Al Hajri	
The Russian Federation	Mr. Sergei Zhestkii	Deputy Director of the Asian-Pacific Cooperation Department
The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia	H.E. Mr. Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Beshir	Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to UAE
The Republic of Singapore	Ms. Zhou Suli	Deputy Director, Southeast Asia II Directorate, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
The Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka	H.E. Grace Asirwatham	Additional Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
The Republic of Tajikistan		
The Kingdom of Thailand	Mr. Chuntintorn Gongsakdi	Director-General, Department of International Economic Affaires



The Republic of Turkey	H.E. Mr Can Dizdar	Ambassador of Turkey to the UAE
The United Arab Emirates	HE. Mohammed Sharaf	Assistance Foreign Minister of Economic Affairs
The Republic of Uzbekistan	HE. Vakhobov Farrukh	Charge D' Affaires- Uzbekistan Embassy to UAE
The Socialist Republic of Vietnam	H.E. Pham Binh Dam	Viet Nam Ambassador to the UAE
ACD Secretary General	Mr. Bundit Limschoon	ACD Secretary General