

STATEMENT
by Mr. Yerlan Baudarbek-Kozhatayev
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the Republic of Singapore
at the 8th ACD Ministerial Meeting

Sri Lanka, Colombo
October 15, 2009

Distinguished Chairman,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to express appreciation to the Government of Sri Lanka for the outstanding organization of today's Ministerial Meeting of the Asian Cooperation Dialogue. Kazakhstan has been chairing the ACD since October 2008 and upon completion of its term, in accordance to the traditional procedures, within framework of the Sixty-fourth UN General Assembly has officially handed over the chairmanship to Sri Lanka.

Availing myself of this opportunity I am also delighted to congratulate Sri Lanka on gaining the status of Dialogue Partner of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

Dear Heads of Delegations,

Despite the influence of the global financial crisis it is necessary to underscore the positive cooperation development within the ACD. As you know, the previous ACD Ministerial Meeting was held in October 2008 in Astana, and was participated by delegates of 29 member-states.

The work of the 7th ACD Ministerial Meeting has been highlighted with such achievements as:

- definition of the ultimate aim of integration within the ACD by establishment of Asian Community;

- agreements reached on establishment of the ACD Virtual Secretariat;
- and Track II (bringing academic representatives into work of the ACD).

Fundamental importance has been attached to the decision of Heads of delegations to lift the temporary new memberships' moratorium and accession of Kyrgyz Republic as the 31st member of the Dialogue.

Additionally to the ACD development issues, agenda of the Ministerial Meeting in Astana included topical questions of international importance such as influence of the global financial crisis on Asian countries, food security issues and necessity of introduction of the joint measures for economic sustainability in conditions of the economic downturn.

As stated in the Declaration signed by participants of the 7th Ministerial Meeting, Kazakhstan, as Co-Prime Mover of cooperation in transport area, scheduled the 1st Ministerial Transport Forum on April 2009 in Astana. However, since the majority of member-states were not able to participate in this arrangement within the proposed dates, Kazakhstan has decided to postpone the Ministerial Transport Forum to the year 2010 and to fix the dates suitable for all participants.

In this context I would like to draw your attention to the conceptual document "Development transport linkages between the ACD member-states" elaborated by Kazakhstan and distributed during the previous ACD Ministerial Meeting. We would highly appreciate your feedback and suggestions regarding this document and prospects of its further implementation.

Kazakhstan is willing to continue its efforts in this area and we will propose the further Action Plan of implementation of the transport strategy on the transit and transport collaboration within the Dialogue.

In order to prepare a comprehensive analysis and evaluation of the processes conducted during Kazakhstan's chairmanship, our Ministry of Foreign Affairs has sent requests to all member-states to provide the progress reports in all areas of

cooperation. Unfortunately, we have received the feedback only from China, Korea and Thailand, stating that:

- China organized the 1st Seminar on Theory and Practice of International Development (Poverty Reduction) for Asian Countries in December 2008.
- Korea provided “Project Aid Program”, “Training Programs” and “Overseas Volunteers Program” for the ACD member countries.
- Thailand informed us about the conducted Workshop and two Seminars on climate change, energy and issues of poverty reduction for Asian countries.

In this context I’d like to emphasize the importance of the Prime and Co-Prime Movers activity in terms of systematic providing the progress reports to the ACD Chairing country. The MFA of the Chairing member-state in its turn would analyze the feedback on the progress, encountered difficulties, emerged suggestions and elaborate further recommendations.

In conclusion I would like to emphasize that the Asian Cooperation Dialogue represents one of the influential platforms, which allows each member-state to create favorable conditions for its foreign-economic activity. The ACD provides access to the markets and promotes enhancement of the bilateral and multilateral cooperation between the countries and international institutions of the Asian continent.

I’m confident that Sri Lanka’s chairmanship in the ACD will impart a new impulse to the fruitful development of the Dialogue and I would like to wish all the ACD member-states success in the implementation of their goals and tasks within the Dialogue.

Thank you for your attention.