

**VIENTIANE DECLARATION OF THE FIFTH  
AYEYAWADY-CHAO PHRAYA-MEKONG  
ECONOMIC COOPERATION STRATEGY SUMMIT**

We, the Heads of State/Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Kingdom of Thailand and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, gathered in Vientiane, Lao PDR on 13 March 2013 for the 5<sup>th</sup> Summit of the Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy (hereinafter referred to as ACMECS).

We reaffirmed our determination to strengthen the traditional relations of friendship, good neighbourliness and mutual benefits among the ACMECS Countries.

We adopted the ACMECS Plan of Action 2013-2015 and reiterated our strong commitment to implementing the goals and objectives enshrined in the Bagan Declaration and all succeeding Declarations of the ACMECS summits to build good neighbourliness among ACMECS Countries, to enhance peace and stability in the region and to promote sustainable development in our countries to support the ASEAN Community building in 2015 and the implementation of ASEAN Master Plan of Connectivity. We also shared the common view that the Mekong countries could serve as a "Single Production Base" and be part of the global supply chain as a theme of the new ACMECS Plan of Action.

We reviewed the implementation of the Phnom Penh Declaration on the Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy and the ACMECS Plan of Action 2010-2012, and noted with satisfaction the significant progress made in the areas of our cooperation such as trade and investment facilitation, agriculture, industry and energy, transport, tourism, human resource development, public health and social welfare development, and environment.

We emphasised the need for the ACMECS Countries to redouble our efforts individually, bilaterally and collectively to move ACMECS forward more effectively for the interests and benefits of the ACMECS Countries and peoples.

**We hereby declared as follows:**

**1. In Trade and Investment Facilitation Cooperation, we agreed to:**

- 1.1 Further implement the ACMECS Leader's Declaration on Facilitation and Promotion of Trade, Investment and Tourism adopted at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Summit in Hanoi to ensure the economic growth in ACMECS Countries;
- 1.2 Strengthen close coordination in trade and investment promotion, particularly among ACMECS Countries, through the organisation of joint trade and investment events, exhibitions and missions in order to increase trade and investment within the region. In this connection, we also agreed to encourage non-ACMECS countries, especially those in

Southeast Asia and the ACMECS potential partners to join trade and investment fairs and exhibitions organised in ACMECS Countries to enable ACMECS' Businessmen to expand trade and investment opportunities into the wider regional and global markets;

- 1.3 Reiterate the commitment to facilitate and promote foreign direct investment, particularly among ACMECS Countries, and from other countries in the region, through the provision of investment incentives under the respective domestic laws and regulations of the ACMECS Countries;
- 1.4 Encourage regular meetings between ACMECS Business Council and business communities with a view to creating a pro-business environment in the ACMECS Countries; and
- 1.5 Promote the establishment of ACMECS Rice Trade Cooperation.

**2. In Agriculture Cooperation, we agreed to:**

- 2.1 Expedite the implementation of ACMECS Rice Cooperation mechanism to promote the Cooperation of Rice Production amongst ACMECS Countries;
- 2.2 Encourage consultation and cooperation between the ACMECS Countries and development partners to promote rice production and ensure food security;
- 2.3 Strengthen cooperation on technology transfer and information sharing in the field of agriculture, forestry, fisheries, livestock and veterinarian and aquaculture to ensure food security in ACMECS Countries;
- 2.4 Enhance close cooperation in bio-fuel crops production in the ACMECS Countries in order to provide materials and inputs for bio-fuel development;
- 2.5 Accelerate and facilitate the implementation of Bilateral and Multilateral Contract Farming as an efficient mechanism to guarantee food sufficiency among ACMECS Countries and welcome the signing of an MOU between the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand and the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic on Cooperation in the Promotion of the Contract Farming Scheme under ACMECS; and
- 2.6 Invite interested development partners to support financial institutions in ACMECS Countries to provide credit for small farmers for agriculture related activities under ACMECS scheme.

**3. In Industrial and Energy Cooperation, we agreed to:**

- 3.1 Encourage experience and information sharing as well as technology transfer on the production, energy efficiency technologies, application and production of bio-energy and renewable energy such as biomass, bio-fuel, solar, wind, mini-hydro, and other locally available energy; and promote best practices and appropriate standards in the ACMECS Countries;

- 3.2 Reiterate the commitment in facilitating investment on sustainable and environmental friendly energy development and enhancing cooperation on renewable energy, energy efficiency and conservation;
- 3.3 Promote the development of power transmission lines and network across the ACMECS Countries;
- 3.4 Further promote industrial policy development cooperation among ACMECS Countries through organising workshops/training courses on a regular basis;
- 3.5 Encourage the establishment of industrial zones along the ACMECS Countries' borders and other potential areas along the East-West Economic Corridor (EWEC), North South Economic Corridor (NSEC), the Southern Economic Corridor (SEC) and the "inter-corridor linkages" focusing on green growth and sustainable development to encourage economic linkages and regional value chain as well as preparation for the realisation of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) in 2015; and
- 3.6 Enhance the competitiveness of SMEs in ACMECS Countries.

4. In **Transport Linkages**, we agreed to:

- 4.1 Strengthen close coordination to complete multi modal transport connectivity and make full use of existing road transportation networks and economic corridors, particularly the East-West Economic Corridor (EWEC), North South Economic Corridor (NSEC) and Southern Economic Corridor (SEC) under the Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS) cooperation programme to promote trade, investment services and tourism among the ACMECS Countries;
- 4.2 Encourage the development of air linkages among major cities, cultural and natural heritage sites in the ACMECS Countries, as well as railways and feeder roads to increase trade, investment and tourism flows;
- 4.3 Encourage ACMECS Countries to further strengthen coordination and cooperation among EWEC countries, ACMECS Countries and related development partners to maximise the use of existing transport linkages as well as further develop transport linkages and welcome the successful organisation of the inaugural Vice Foreign Ministers' Meeting on East-West Economic Corridor (Eastern Part) on 17-18 May 2012 in Dong Ha City, Quang Tri, Viet Nam and the offer of Lao PDR to host the Second Vice Foreign Ministers' Meeting in May 2013 in Savannaket Province, Lao PDR; and support the meeting's outcome to expand the scope of the Vice Foreign Ministers' Meeting on East-West Economic Corridor (Eastern Part) to cover Myanmar in the future. We also commended the success of the Lao PDR, Thailand and Viet Nam Transport Ministers' Meeting held on 21 February 2013 in Hanoi to enhance cooperation on road transport among the three countries; and
- 4.4 Urge the ACMECS Countries to fully ratify the GMS-CBTA Annexes and Protocols to support the seamless cross border transportation of goods and people between and among the parties to the agreement.

**5. In Tourism Cooperation**, we agreed to:

- 5.1 Promote cross border travel within the ACMECS Countries and conduct a joint tourism marketing and promotion, joint programme activities in tourism in order to realise the “Five Countries, One Destination” concept including new “Tourism Corridors” (Bagan-Chiang Mai- Luangprabang-Vientiane-Siem Reap-Hue);
- 5.2 Promote traveling facilitation, especially visa and transport facilitation within ACMECS Countries; and note the implementation of ACMECS single visa between Cambodia and Thailand; and encourage the other remaining three countries to join this scheme in the future;
- 5.3 Enhance capacity-building programmes in tourism and marketing efforts in ACMECS; and
- 5.4 Promote the green and responsible tourism in the ACMECS region.

**6. In Human Resource Development**, we agreed to:

- 6.1 Provide the number of scholarship and fellowship as well as vocational training and skills development programmes, inclusive of the private sector, in the cooperation sectors of ACMECS;
- 6.2 Promote partnership and linkage among academic institutions, particularly higher education, vocational training and skills development in the ACMECS Countries;
- 6.3 Encourage development partners to participate in, and provide financial and technical assistance for, ACMECS training projects in the various sectors of cooperation;
- 6.4 Further encourage the establishment of the partnership and network among academic institutions in the ACMECS Countries;
- 6.5 Enhance cooperation on development of competency standards and skills certification system among ACMECS Countries;
- 6.6 Create an attractive environment for the development of a skilled work force through sharing of experiences and development of suitable policies;
- 6.7 Enhance the role of industrial sector to increasingly promote and support vocational education and labour skills training by collaboration amongst relevant partners and stakeholders; and
- 6.8 Establish an international network amongst ACMECS Countries to facilitate in cooperation and collaboration in vocational education and labour skills training.

**7. In Public Health and Social Welfare Development**, we agreed to:

- 7.1 Strengthen cooperation and facilitate information sharing on infectious disease surveillance and response, particularly to emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases at cross border

and at the animal-human environment interface through multi-sectoral actions, prevention and control of disease through collaborative activities and dissemination of best practices;

7.2 Promote and support capacity building programmes in animal and human health sectors; and

7.3 Promote cooperation of ACMECS Countries in sharing experience in social welfare development in order to improve access to social security and healthcare services and the quality of life of the peoples in the ACMECS Countries.

8. In **Environmental Cooperation**, we agreed to:

8.1 Continue to implement concrete projects and programmes under the Action Plan on Environmental Cooperation;

8.2 Reiterate the commitment to integrate the environmental goals into all the ACMECS projects on economic development;

8.3 Further strengthen cooperation among ACMECS Countries on environmental conservation and sustainable use of natural resources of the Ayeyawady, Chao Phraya and Mekong rivers; and

8.4 Enhance cooperation between ACMECS Countries in regional and international institutions, as well as with non-ACMECS countries, to promote green development and address climate change and global warming.

9. With regard to resources mobilisation, we agreed to further encourage development partners to participate in the implementation of ACMECS projects and programmes in line with the agreed Guidelines for Development Partners' Participation in ACMECS Projects.

10. We welcomed the offer of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to host the Sixth ACMECS Summit in 2014. The specific date and venue will be coordinated through diplomatic channels.

11. All ACMECS Countries expressed their sincere thanks to the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic for the warmest hospitality and excellent arrangements accorded to all member delegations during the Summit.

Adopted in Vientiane, Lao People's Democratic Republic, on 13 March 2013.

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