

PHNOM PENH DECLARATION ON THE AYEYAWADY-CHAO PHRAYA-MEKONG ECONOMIC COOPERATION STRATEGY

We, the Heads of the Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the Union of Myanmar, the Kingdom of Thailand and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, gathered in Phnom Penh, Cambodia on 17th November 2010 for the 4th Summit of the Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy (hereinafter referred to as ACMECS).

We reaffirmed our traditional relations of friendship, good neighborliness and mutual benefits among the ACMECS countries.

We adopted and reiterated our strong commitments to implement the ACMECS Plan of Action 2010-2012 in order to realize the goals and objectives enshrined in the Bagan Declaration to build good neighborliness among Member Countries, to promote peace and stability in the region and to promote sustainable development in our countries.

We reviewed the implementation of the Third ACMECS Summit Declaration and the progress in the areas of our cooperation such as Trade and Investment Facilitation, Transport, Agriculture, Industry and Energy, Public Health, Tourism and Human Resource Development.

We hailed the establishment of ACMECS Working Group on Environmental Cooperation and warmly welcomed Cambodia and Viet Nam to be co-chairs of this Working Group.

We recognized the need for the ACMECS Countries to redouble their efforts individually, bilaterally and collectively to move ACMECS forward for the prosperity and well-being of our peoples.

We hereby declared as follows:

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

- 1.1. Accelerate the effective implementation of the ACMECS Leader's Declaration on Facilitation and Promotion of Trade, Investment and Tourism adopted at the 3rd Summit in Hanoi to ensure the economic growth in ACMECS Countries;*
- 1.2. Strengthen close coordination in trade and investment promotion through the organization of joint trade and investment events, exhibitions and missions among the ACMECS Countries in order to increase trade and investment flow within the region;*
- 1.3. Enhance transparency and simplify rules, regulations and policies relating to trade and investment;*

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.*

2. In Agricultural Cooperation:

2.1. *We welcomed the establishment of ACMECS Rice Cooperation mechanism, and agreed to:*

2.1.1. *Take note of the recommendations of the ACMECS Ministerial Meeting on Rice Cooperation on 24 September 2007 in Siem Reap, Cambodia, to establish rice **production and export** cooperation;*

2.1.2. *Take note of the proposed Working Paper on the ACMECS Rice Cooperation; and*

2.1.3. *Task the ACMECS relevant Ministers to consider the Plan of Action of the Working Paper and provide recommendation for implementation;*

2.2. *We decided to strengthen cooperation in technology transfer and information sharing in the field of agriculture, forestry, fisheries, livestock and aquaculture to increase productivity, food security and food safety in ACMECS and enhance cooperation in bio-fuel crops production;*

2.3. *We also decided to accelerate and facilitate the implementation of Bilateral and Multilateral Contract Farming which is an efficient mechanism to guarantee food sufficiency among the ACMECS Countries, and encourage awareness of the producers and business sector on the benefits, rules and procedures of the Contract Farming scheme by organizing workshops or seminars.*

3. In Industrial and Energy Cooperation, we decided to:

3.1. *Enhance development and encourage technology transfer and information sharing on the production, energy efficiency technologies and use 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. *Promote hydro-power, oil and gas exploration;*

3.3. *Promote the development of power transmission lines and networks across the ACMECS Countries;*

3.4. *Encourage cooperation on energy efficiency and conservation and rural electrification expansion;*

3.5. *Further promote industrial policy development cooperation among the ACMECS Countries through organizing workshops/training course on a regular basis;*

3.6. *Promote the establishment of industrial zones along the ACMECS countries' border, the East-West Economic Corridor (EWEC), the Southern Economic*

Corridor (SEC) and the “inter-corridor linkages” to encourage production linkages and regional value chain as well as preparation for the establishment of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) in 2015;

- 3.7. Strengthen investment in industrial infrastructure, particularly supporting and logistic industries;*
- 3.8. Enhance the competitiveness of SMEs and supporting industries to support the production bases in ACMECS countries.*

4. In Transport Linkages, we decided to:

- 4.1. Strengthen close coordination to complete multi modal transport connectivity, including road, rail and air linkages 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 Member Countries and others; and*
- 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.*

5. In Tourism Cooperation, we decided to:

- 5.1. Promote cross border travel within the ACMECS Countries and conduct joint program activities in tourism in order to realize the “Five Countries, One Destination” concept;*
- 5.2. Promote traveling facilitation, especially visa and transport facilitation within the ACMECS Member Countries; and*
- 5.3. Strengthen and Enhance capacity-building programs in tourism and close coordination in promoting the ACMECS tourism website.*

6. In Human Resource Development, we decided to:

- 6.1. Advance the number of scholarships and fellowship as well as vocational training programs, inclusive of private sector, in the CMECS cooperation;*
- 6.2. Promote existing institutional linkages, vocational training institutions, and universities networks;*
- 6.3. Encourage Development Partners to participate in training projects of the ACMECS and to seek financial and technical assistance for the ACMECS Countries in human resource development; and*
- 6.4. Promote the development of National Human Resources Development Plan of each ACMECS Country.*
- 6.5. Enhance cooperation on development of competency standards and skills certification system among the ACMECS Countries.*

6.6. *Create an attractive environment for the development of a skilled work force through sharing experience and developing suitable policies.*

7. In *Public Health Cooperation*, we decided to:

- 7.1. *Strengthen cooperation and information sharing on disease surveillance, prevention and control, particularly of emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases at cross border and at the animal-human-environment interface through multi-sectoral actions; and*
- 7.2. *Promote and support capacity building programs in animal and human health sectors.*

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

- 8.1. *Take note with satisfaction the finalization of the Action Plan on Environmental Cooperation and task the Working Group on Environmental Cooperation to formulate concrete projects and programs;*
 - 8.2. *Integrate the environmental goals into all the ACMECS projects on economic development;*
 - 8.3. *Strengthen cooperation among the ACMECS Countries on environmental conservation and sustainable use of natural resources of the Ayeyawady, Chao Phraya and Mekong rivers.*
 - 8.4. *Strengthen cooperation between ACMECS Countries and regional and international institutions on environmental related matters included goals of addressing global warming, reducing air pollution, adapting and mitigating climate change, improving the regional and global environment, water resources management and Reducing Emission from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD).*
- 9.** *On resources mobilization, we decided to further encourage development partners to participate in the implementation of ACMECS projects and programs in line with the agreed Guidelines for Development Partners' Participation in ACMECS Projects.*
- 10.** *We welcomed the offer of Lao PDR to host the **Fifth ACMECS Summit in 2012**. The specific date and venue will be coordinated through diplomatic channels.*
- 11.** *All ACMECS Countries expressed their sincere thanks to the Royal Government of Cambodia for the warmest hospitality and excellent arrangements accorded to all member delegations during the Summit.*

Adopted in Phnom Penh, the Kingdom of Cambodia, on 17 November 2010.
