

**Concept Paper**  
**on Working Mechanism for ACMECS Coordinating Committees**  
**under ACMECS Master Plan 2019-2023**

## **Background**

1. At the 8<sup>th</sup> ACMECS Summit on 16 June 2018 in Bangkok, Thailand, ACMECS Leaders adopted the ACMECS Master Plan (2019-2023), aiming at streamlining operational structure of ACMECS cooperation areas, which will be carried out through Coordinating Committees of 3 pillars, namely Seamless Connectivity, Synchronized ACMECS Economies, Smart and Sustainable ACMECS.
2. According to the Bangkok Declaration of the 8<sup>th</sup> ACMECS Summit, the five ACMECS Leaders tasked the Ministers and Senior Officials to further strengthen the coordination among member countries in accelerating the implementation of the ACMECS Master Plan.

## **Purpose**

3. To serve as a guideline for a clear and well-coordinated working mechanism for each pillar's Coordinating Committee under the ACMECS Master Plan (2019-2023) hereinafter referred as "ACMECS Coordinating Committees"
4. To ensure all goals and objectives will be effectively implemented as stated in the ACMECS Master Plan (2019-2023) and the Bangkok Declaration
5. To enhance closer coordination among the relevant Coordinating Bodies of each member country, as well as their responsibilities, improve resource mobilization, efficiency and effectiveness, and avoid overlapping activities while reflecting the real needs and priorities of ACMECS member countries

## **Composition**

6. The ACMECS Coordinating Committee for each pillar shall be comprised of representatives from relevant Coordinating Bodies of each member country.

7. Each member country should appoint its relevant Coordinating Body for each pillar in a timely manner and in accordance to their internal structural preference.
8. The Chair of the relevant Coordinating Body for each pillar is encouraged to be appointed at senior official level or as appropriate representatives according to the needs and arrangement of respective country.

### **Meeting Modality**

9. Referencing to the ACMECS Master Plan (2019-2023) under “Follow-up and Assessment” Section and Paragraph 14 of the Bangkok Declaration, “ACMECS Chair will hold an ACMECS Coordinating Committees’ Meeting at least once a year back-to-back with Senior Officials’ Meeting (SOM), or as appropriate to review the progress and challenges of the implementation of the ACMECS Master Plan.”
10. The frequency, time, venue, format and agenda items of the ACMECS Coordinating Committees’ Meeting, as well as the decision-making process, shall be decided based on consensus and in accordance with the core values and guidelines under ACMECS Master Plan. Technology and flexible meeting and organization arrangements could be explored.

### **Scope of Work**

11. The ACMECS Coordinating Committees’ Meeting shall decide the scope of cooperation in respective areas, in accordance with the ACMECS Master Plan (2019-2023)<sup>1</sup>, make policy coordination and work plans, carry out relevant cooperation projects agreed upon by the government of the ACMECS member countries, and recommend the improvement of cooperation and projects implementation methods, if needed.
12. The existing areas of cooperation established under ACMECS, namely Trade and Investment Facilitation, Financial Cooperation, Agriculture, Transport, Tourism, Human Resource Development, Public Health, Industrial and Energy Cooperation and Environmental Cooperation shall be carried out within the purview of the ACMECS Coordinating Committees.

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<sup>1</sup> The Action Plan as annexed to the ACMECS Master Plan is a living document whereby ACMECS member countries can make improvement, prioritize and submit their plans/projects as appropriate to be reported to the annual SOM. ACMECS Coordinating Committees shall further discuss areas of mutual concern as appears in Annex B to D of the Master Plan.

**Communication**

13. The relevant Coordinating Body for each pillar is required to assign two focal points (one main and one alternative) and submit the Contact List to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of each member country.
14. The ACMECS Coordinating Committees' Contact-List shall be annually updated whenever necessary or in the case of new appointment made on focal points.

**Line of Report**

15. The Chairs of relevant Coordinating Bodies are required to regularly report their progress and challenges by working closely with Ministry of Foreign Affairs of each member country before submitting the report to ACMECS Coordinating Committees' Meeting.
16. The ACMECS Coordinating Committees' Meeting will then submit the summary progress report to ACMECS Senior Officials' Meeting who then make an overall report to the Foreign Ministers' Meeting.

**Expenses**

17. The expenses for holding the ACMECS Coordinating Committees' Meeting will be borne by hosting country, while the working expense shall be covered by its respective member country.

**Amendment**

18. The ACMECS Coordinating Committees may propose amendments to this Concept Paper as deemed necessary. The amendment shall be made with consensus of all member countries.

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