



ACD Statement on Reigniting Growth through Partnerships for Connectivity

1. We, the Leaders of the Member States of the Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) met in Bangkok, the Kingdom of Thailand, at the 2nd ACD Summit on 9 - 10 October 2016.
2. We recall that in 2002 the ACD first convened in Thailand around the need for Asian states to work closely through "Cooperation" and "Dialogue" to address various challenges deriving from the global financial and economic crisis.
3. Then, as now, we realize that through "Cooperation" and "Dialogue", Asia will not only overcome the crisis, but will also emerge as a strong engine of global growth. Amidst the currently slow global economic recovery and numerous emerging challenges, we concur that "The Asian Century" has arrived. We reaffirm Asia's definitive role as a catalyst of growth and integration that will reignite global dynamism, and as a preeminent hub of trade and investment in the future.
4. We are determined to foster an innovative, invigorated, interconnected and inclusive Asian economy to usher in a new era of Asian growth and sustainable development.
5. We recognize that to fully materialize our diverse and complementary potentials and strengths, we must collectively and proactively engage all stakeholders in an inclusive and results-oriented manner. In this context, we set out to become a responsible and productive member of the global community, and we agree that enhanced partnership for connectivity in all its dimensions, including quality infrastructure, while taking into account the interest of all countries in Asia, particularly LDCs, LLDCs and SIDs in narrowing the development gap, is a prerequisite for sustainable and inclusive growth. In pursuit of such goals, we also emphasize a key role of the private sector in the enhanced partnership, thereby welcome the participation of the representatives from the ACD business community at the 1st ACD Connect 2016 Business Forum held on 9 October 2016 in Thailand

and concur with their recommendations on the need to strengthen multi-stakeholder partnerships in advancing seamless connectivity.

6. We emphasize the importance of promoting quality infrastructure investment, which ensures factors such as economic efficiency in view of life cycle cost, safety, resilience and sustainability, job creation, capacity building, transfer of expertise and know-how, and alignment with economic and development strategies while addressing social and environment impacts.
7. We reiterate the need to foster an enabling environment for partnerships for connectivity and encourage the deepening of economic integration, at both the regional and interregional levels, with a view to further facilitating the flows of resources and capital.
8. We encourage multi-stakeholder partnerships to strengthen and improve regional infrastructure connectivity in finance, transport, information and communications technology, food, water, energy, education and human resource development, health, culture and tourism, science, technology, innovation and environmental protection, amongst others, must also be utilized and synergized to best achieve these ends.
9. We will engage more actively with all stakeholders, in particular the business sector, and development partners to explore innovative platforms and financing modalities, together with existing regional and financial mechanisms, for connectivity initiatives through collaboration with multilateral development banks and the private sector to effectively support quality infrastructure build-up in the region.
10. We will promote a continued dialogue on science, technology and innovation with a view to promoting the sharing of knowledge, expertise, technology and technical assistance among ACD Member States, and devising innovation-driven strategies and action plans, leveraging partnerships on science, technology and innovation, and as a long term strategy, stimulating the creation of innovation ecosystems for the betterment of mankind.

Bangkok

10 October 2016