

Report of the 2nd Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) Summit
10th October 2016, 10.00 - 18.00 hrs.
Vithes Samosorn Hall, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand

(1) The 2nd Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) Summit took place on 10th October 2016 at Vithes Samosorn Hall, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand, Bangkok, the Kingdom of Thailand.

(2) **H.E. General Prayut Chan-o-cha (Ret.), Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand** as **the Chair** and host of the 2nd Summit welcomed all delegates to Thailand and, after expressing his hope for this gathering to be a fundamental step towards sustainable cooperation and development in this region, highlighted the Summit's theme "One Asia, Diverse Strengths", with the aim to mobilizing Asia's diverse strengths and potentials in order to drive the global growth for the well-being of the people in the region. The Chair, then,

(2.1) introduced the ACD Vision for Asia Cooperation (ACD Vision 2030) as the shared commitment envisaging Asia as a continent of inclusive and sustainable growth, seamless connectivity, stability, peace with its people at the center and with the objective and direction towards the building of an "Asian community".

(2.2) asserted the aim to achieve the 2030 Vision by pushing forward ACD's 6 pillars of cooperation that are in line with the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, namely, (1) Interrelation of food, water, and energy security; (2) connectivity; (3) science, technology and innovation, (4) education and human resources development; (5) culture and tourism; (6) promoting approaches to inclusive and sustainable development, with engagement from all sectors in the ACD through the Public-Private-People Partnership (4Ps) for growth.

(2.3) encouraged Prime Movers in all pillars to establish Working Groups to set goals, time frame and clear approaches of collaboration under each pillar to attain concrete results.

(2.4) underlined importance of Asian connectivity and economic integration, particularly financial connectivity, and informed the Summit that Thailand is placing high importance on the use of technology to enhance financial connectivity and infrastructure financing, which were the two leading topics of the ACD Connect Business Forum 2016 on 9 October 2016.

(2.5) reaffirmed Thailand's pledge to become Prime Mover in the Promoting Approaches to Inclusive and Sustainable Development pillar. In this regard, he asserted Thailand's belief in balancing economic growth with social development which must take into account the people's happiness as an important factor. In this regard, the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy (SEP) of His Majesty the King of Thailand is an extremely helpful tool towards such goal.

(2.6) marked the establishment of ACD Secretariat as another milestone for ACD as the Secretariat will ensure coordination continuity among ACD Members. He also expressed his appreciation to Kuwait for hosting the Secretariat and for supporting expenses of the Secretariat's office and staffs. In this regard, he further stressed Thailand's opinion that ACD Member States should discuss the establishment of the ACD Development Fund and new protocol and mechanism for the selection of ACD Secretary-General in order to reassure the efficiency and continuity of the Secretariat's work.

The Chair ended his statement by congratulating the United Arab Emirates (UAE) as the new ACD Chair and for the hosting of the 15th ACD Ministerial Meeting in Abu Dhabi in January 2017. He further thanked Iran for volunteering to host the 3rd ACD Summit in 2018.

(3) **H.H. Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah**, the Amir of the State of Kuwait, as **the host of the 1st ACD Summit**, expressed sincere appreciation to the Kingdom of Thailand not only for the hospitality of the 2nd Summit but also for initiating this forum. After welcoming Turkey and Nepal to ACD, His Highness Amir of Kuwait, underlined that although Asia continent is facing serious challenges and dangers, which suffer this continent in forms of wars, sapped economies, poverty, low-level of health care, illiteracy and environmental problems, Asian collective work is still not up to our hopes and aspirations. In this regard, His Highness Amir of Kuwait further indicated that only the creation of partnerships with academia and private sector is not sufficient. Asia is still required to respect our covenants and work together to resolve our conflicts through peaceful means. In addition, in light of the JASTA of the United States of America, which violates the international charters, Asia is compelled to defend the international charters and traditions. Thereafter, His Highness Amir of Kuwait stressed that, by realizing the importance of Asian surroundings, Kuwait has working on elevating the collective Asian work via hosting the ACD Secretariat in Kuwait and working in two fields of 6 priority pillars, namely Connectivity and Sustainable Development. In this connection, His Highness Amir of Kuwait reiterated Kuwait's announcement of US\$ 2 billion fund and invited other Member States to participate to enable this programme. His Highness Amir of Kuwait also emphasized the importance of the Vision 2030, because it reflects Asia's determination to cooperate and draws a broader prospect for our cooperation. At the end of his statement, His Highness Amir of Kuwait expressed appreciation to all Members and to the Secretariat for all efforts.

(4) **H.E. Dr. Thani Ahmed Al Zaeyoudi**, Minister of Climate Change and Environment, United Arab Emirates (UAE), as **the current Chair of ACD**, expressed appreciation to the Kingdom of Thailand for the efforts dedicated in organizing the 2nd Summit, to the Amir of the State of Kuwait for his efforts to push forward the development of ACD's cooperation and to H.E. General Prayut Chan-o-cha, together with H.E. Mr. Don Pramudwinai, for their efforts in enhancing ACD's cooperation and for the timely theme of this Summit "One Asia. Diverse Strengths". After welcomed Nepal to ACD, H.E. Dr. Thani commended Thailand's initiative in streamlining ACD's cooperation into 6 priority pillars. In this connection, the UAE announced their keenness to be the Prime Mover in the pillar Interrelation of Food, Energy and Water Security and a facilitator of the pillar Science, Technology and Innovation. After announced its support to the State of Kuwait in hosting the ACD Secretariat, H.E. Dr. Thani emphasized the danger of violation of principle of state or sovereign immunity, and stressed that everyone is

responsible for criminal action, which he or she has committed, without extension of effect to others or to the States, which he/she is one of its citizens; and, the adoption of any unilateral legislations that result in or lead to act against the national sovereignty of the States is a clear violation of the United Nations Charter and the principles of the International Law. The UAE also highlighted the need of ACD to promote comprehensive dialogue between Members and with other international organizations through a clear action plan. In this context, H.E. Dr. Thani voiced the UAE's support in lowering trade and investment barrier as well as underscored the UAE's role in the field of energy, food and water security. In this context, H.E. Dr. Thani informed and invited all ACD Member States to attend the 15th ACD Ministerial Meeting in Abu Dhabi on 16-17 January 2017. The 15th ACD Ministerial Meeting will be coincided with the activities of Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week 2017. H.E. Dr. Thani ended his statement by expressing appreciation to the ACD Secretary General for his efforts in strengthening Asia's cooperation.

(5) **H.M. Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah**, Sultan of Brunei Darussalam, expressed his appreciation to the Government and the people of Thailand for warm welcome and hospitality as well as the initiative to advance the work of ACD. His Majesty Sultan of Brunei asserted that ACD continues to progress since the 1st Summit hosted in Kuwait and welcomed Turkey and Nepal to the forum. Highlighting the effects of threats, conflicts and instability, His Majesty Sultan of Brunei asserted his confidence in Asia's potential and his aspiration for Asia to be a politically peaceful, stable and economically prosperous. In this connection, His Majesty Sultan of Brunei also expressed his ambition for Asia to strive towards the best and voiced that ACD as an Asia-wide forum is in a unique position to tackle issues and concerns and work towards an Asian community. In this relation, His Majesty Sultan of Brunei suggested that particular emphasis should be placed on specific areas, namely, (i) supporting each other's effort in combatting the scourge of terrorism and extremism and promoting tolerance, understanding moderation and respect for each other's peaceful values, (ii) boosting robust contribution on climate change especially through the ratification and implementation of the Paris Agreement, (iii) forging strong bonds to bring together Asian people and address common interests and concerns and enhancing connectivity among Asian countries, especially trade, ICT and infrastructure. His Majesty Sultan of Brunei concluded his statement by commending the ACD Vision 2030 and Bangkok Declaration as well as the statement on Reigniting Growth through Partnerships for Connectivity and wishing the UAE all the success as the new ACD Chair.

(6) **H.E. Dr. Hassan Rouhani**, President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, first expressed gratitude to the Kingdom of Thailand, then, expressed appreciation to speak in the forum that gathers the whole continent to work together towards a common goal, Asian Community, on the basis of ACD Vision 2030. Dr. Rouhani underscored a pivotal role of Asia in global stage and asserted that Asia's power is dependent on self-belief and a shared desire for convergence. He also voiced the imperative to open Asian markets, engage in greater economic interaction, start domestic structural reform, move towards greater transparency and engage in extensive coordination on setting policy, and expressed Iran's commitment to remain with Asia. After identifying violence and extremism as the most challenging crises to the Asia Continent, Dr. Rouhani asserted that Iran stands up as a strong bulwark against the expansion and infiltration of extremism and terrorism in this extended region, and reiterated that the illegal intervention has

fueled violence and atrocities. He also highlighted that one cannot talk about security and work towards cohesive development, while ignoring terrorist atrocities; therefore, diplomacy and dialogue as this forum is the main tools to resolve such challenges. Furthermore, after mentioning the lifting of sanctions, Dr. Rouhani emphasized the strengths of Iran's resources and economy and echoed Iran's eagerness in participating in the value chain, developing new markets, providing durable supply of energy and playing an even more active role in Asian collaborations. In this relation, after Dr. Rouhani invited and welcomed Asian investors to Iran, he underlined Iran's potential to be a major international corridor with a more active role in the Asian-European transportation network as a future hub in rail, air and sea transportation in West Asia. Among the 6 priority pillars, Dr. Rouhani identified Culture and Tourism as Iran's field of interest. Iran, however, is ready, through multilateral investment schemes and expansion of natural gas sector, ready to increase the security of the energy supply in Asia. Dr. Rouhani also laid emphasis on the interrelation of security, stability and development as they are complimenting each other. In the end of his statement, Dr. Rouhani reiterated Iran's commitment to expand trade as well as scientific, cultural and technological ties between Iran and Asian communities and to contribute to the ongoing efforts to transform this continent to a powerhouse for global progress.

(7) **H.R.H. Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al-Khalifa**, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Bahrain, after conveyed the greetings of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, King of the Kingdom of Bahrain, passed on his highness's pleasure in participating in this Asian forum. H.R.H. Al-Khalifa, after expressed appreciation to the Kingdom of Thailand for the hospitality and preparation of the Summit and to the His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the Amir of the State of Kuwait, for Kuwait's efforts in hosting the 1st Summit in 2012, congratulated the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on assuming the ACD Chairmanship. In light of the adopted United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs), H.R.H. Al-Khalifa voiced that achieving these goals requires the presence of security and stability, but the emergence of the legislation of laws such as JASTA would contravene the principles of equal sovereignty of states and sovereign immunity. Therefore, to achieve the UN SDGs it is importance cooperate to ensure the security and stability of Asian countries. H.R.H. Al-Khalifa also underlined the importance of coordination among the existing economic blocs and groups and called for more coordination to mitigate native impacts of various kinds of crises. In this regard, H.R.H. Al-Khalifa emphasized the importance of building on the results of the first summit and strengthening mechanisms to monitor what has been achieved and the progress made in the inter-cooperation at all levels. On this note, H.R.H. Al-Khalifa assured the Summit that Bahrain would continue to contribute to achieve the objectives of ACD.

(8) **H.E. Mr. Maithripala Sirisena**, President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, expressed sincere appreciation to the Government of Thailand for the warm hospitality and excellent arrangement of the Summit and for the active roles Thailand has been playing since the establishment of this forum in 2002. H.E. Mr. Sirisena, then, welcomed Turkey and Nepal to ACD and welcomed the establishment of ACD Permanent Secretariat, which would provide an institutional structure and elevate the status and outlook of ACD. With strong confident in Asia's potential, H.E. Mr. Sirisena asserted his aspiration for Asia to be a new financial hub, the focal point for the financial services industry; and, in this relation, aiming to build ACD's roles as an

active dialogue, H.E. Mr. Sirisena endorsed the ACD Vision 2030 and the roadmap for ACD Regional Cooperation. In addition to highlighting a great potential of ACD in the field of tourism, Sri Lanka also recognized the importance of the development of science and technology; H.E. Mr. Sirisena, therefore, announced that Sri Lanka will take the lead as a Prime Mover on the Pillar of Science, Technology and Innovation. H.E. Mr. Sirisena, by noting the initiative of Thailand in convening the business forum, ACD Connect, expressed his aspiration for Sri Lanka to achieve the High Income Developed Country Status through commencing a series of mega projects to promote economic growth.

(9) **H.E. Mr. Hwang Kyo-ahn**, Prime Minister of the Republic of Korea, expressed appreciation to the Kingdom of Thailand, welcomed Nepal and congratulated the United Arab Emirates for the assumption of ACD chairmanship. Highlighting the strengths and great potential of Asia, H.E. Mr. Hwang Kyo-ahn voiced his aspiration for the theme One Asia, Diverse Strengths to be one giant leap for Asia. He also mentioned the restructure of ACD's cooperation (6 priority pillars) and adopted the three outcome documents. H.E. Mr. Hwang Kyo-ahn also reaffirmed ROK's intention in providing firm support to ACD and their activities, particularly in science and technology development as a Prime Mover of pillar Science, Technology and Innovation (STI). In this relation, he also underlined that ROK attaches importance to science, technology and human development, and ROK will work together with the Co-prime Movers in the pillar STI to foster Asia's cooperation in this field. H.E. Mr. Hwang Kyo-ahn, then, underscored the imperative of stopping nuclear and missile programs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, which is a threat to peace and stability in Asia region and beyond. In this connection, the Government of ROK asked for ACD Member States to cooperate in making North Korea give up nuclear and missile programs.

(10) **The People's Republic of China**, expressed appreciation and congratulated to the Kingdom of Thailand for the hospitality and preparation of the Summit. He referred to President Xi Jinping's proposal at Boao Forum for Asia Annual Meeting 2015, recommending Asia to move towards a community of shared future and embrace a new future for our continent, and deliberated that an Asian community of shared future is about facilitating common development, promoting common interests, enhancing common security and taking on common responsibilities. In this connection, H.E. Mr. Li Yuanchao also reiterated that (i) unity and coordination should be enhanced to maintain stability in Asia; (ii) connectivity should be strengthened to deepen Asian integration; and (iii) mutually beneficial cooperation should be advanced to promote Asia's development. On this note, H.E. Mr. Li Yuanchao commended ACD as an important platform for building an Asian community of shared future and reaffirmed PRC's supports for ACD's deepening processes, and announced PRC's willingness to serve as the Prime Mover in pillar Interrelation of Food, Water, and Energy Security. At the end of his statement, PRC announced to host the symposium on "Asia Cooperation Dialogue and the Building of an Asian Community of Shared Future" in China and \$100,000 donation to the Secretariat to support the establishment of a permanent Secretariat of the ACD.

(11) **Republic of the Union of Myanmar**, congratulated the UAE as the new Chair of ACD and expressed appreciation to the Kingdom of Thailand for the arrangement, hospitality and leadership. After highlighted the objective of ACD's coordination as well as the greatness and

potentiality of Asia region, H.E. U Myint Swe expressed the imperative of working together to turn Asia's diversities and vast potentials into mutual benefits. In this connection, H.E. U Myint Swe mentioned the top agendas of ACD, namely, the new 6 priority pillars and regional connectivity, and encouraged the ACD Members to establish cooperative programmes. H.E. U Myint Swe, then, underlined Myanmar's strategic location, in between China and India, connecting Southeast Asia to South Asia, and Myanmar's huge untapped investment opportunities; and, in this relation, reiterated the abundance of Asian resources and stressed the important question of how Asia could connect the small pieces of the jigsaw puzzle together to make Asia a peaceful oasis with a sound economy and knowledge based society.

(12) **H.E. Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo HUN SEN**, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, after thanked the Kingdom of Thailand for the warm hospitality, highlighted Cambodia's view that this Summit and the expansion of the ACD membership shows credibility and relevancy of ACD; and, with the newly established ASEAN Economic Community (AEC), H.E. HUN SEN expressed his hope for ACD to be a complimenting mechanism not only to the AEC but also to other regional frameworks. To achieve and Asia Community, H.E. HUN SEN shared his perspectives on the roles of ACD as follow: (i) Cambodia supports the strengthening of ACD to promote Asia's cooperation based on the founding principles of ACD and inclusiveness and complementarity; (ii) by stressing the importance of having a balanced agenda on cross-cutting issues and challenges in Asia, Cambodia adopts the ACD Vision 2030; (iii) among the 6 priority pillars, Cambodia highlights Connectivity, especially physical infrastructure, and Culture and Tourism as the important pillars of ACD; (iv) commending the growth of ACD from being only government-to-government forum to engage private sector, Cambodia welcomed the 1st ACD Connect Business Forum. At the end of his statement, H.E. HUN SEN congratulated the UAE for being the new Chair of ACD and congratulated Iran for the success of the 1st ACD Ministerial Meeting on Tourism. In this regard, H.E. HUN SEN announced that Cambodia will host the 2nd ACD Ministerial Meeting on Tourism in Siem Reap in 2017 and invited all ACD Members to attend the said Ministerial Meeting in Siem Reap.

(13) **H.E. Mr. Tshering Tobgay**, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Bhutan, after conveyed the greetings from His Majesty the King of Bhutan, congratulated the UAE as the new Chair of ACD and welcomed Nepal and Turkey as the new Members of ACD. H.E. Mr. Tshering Tobgay highlighted the urgency of rethinking development approaches and generating happiness of people on a sustainable basis; and, in this regard, welcomed the Vision 2030, the Bangkok Declaration and the Blueprint 2017-2021 as well as the new Prime and Co-prime Movers of the new 6 priority pillars of ACD, and announced to work alongside with Thailand in the pillar Promoting approaches to Inclusive and sustainable Development. In this relation, H.E. Mr. Tshering Tobgay further shared with the Summit about the Gross National Happiness (GNH), which is similar approach to Thailand's concept of sufficiency economy philosophy (SEP), and expressed his hope for both concepts to be incorporated. After welcomed the establishment of a permanent ACD Secretariat and expressed the gratefulness to the State of Kuwait for all supports, H.E. Mr. Tshering Tobgay concluded his statement by reiterating Bhutan's commitment to pursue the shared aspirations and interests of the ACD community for the benefit of Asians.

(14) **H.E. Mr. Thongloun Sisoulith**, Prime Minister of the Lao People's Democratic

Republic, thanked the Kingdom of Thailand the hospitality and excellent arrangement. After voiced support to the new 6 priority pillars of ACD, H.E. Mr. Sisoulith expressed the readiness of the Government of the Lao PDR to work with all member states in the implementation of the Vision 2030 as well as highlighted the focus of the Lao PDR in sustainable development, connectivity and tourism. In this regard, H.E. Mr. Sisoulith underlined the Lao PDR's policy in turning from a landlocked to a land-linked country and the benefit of natural tourism. After mentioned a lack of follow-up of mechanism of ACD, H.E. Mr. Sisoulith (i) supported the establishment of a permanent secretariat to carry out review and assessment of the implementation under ACD cooperation; (ii) encouraged participation of private sector in the overall efforts of ACD cooperation; and (iii) encouraged ACD to help promote bilateral cooperation among the member states, which could contribute to the enhancement of overall ACD cooperation framework. H.E. Mr. Sisoulith concluded his statement by expressing confidence for ACD to gain more achievements under the leadership of the new Chair of ACD, the UAE.

(15) H.E. Dato' Sri Mohd Najib Tun Abdul Razak, Prime Minister of Malaysia, expressed appreciation to the Kingdom of Thailand for the warm hospitality extended and its successful stewardship of ACD. In relation to the global economic slowdown and weak domestic demand in developed economies as reported by the IMF, H.E. Prime Minister of Malaysia highlighted the imperative need for ACD Members to be more united and to collaborate in order to turn the potential of the Asian region into the driving force for global economic growth. H.E. Prime Minister of Malaysia also underscored that ACD should act to promote common development and prosperity in Asia while resisting interference from outside powers, in achieving the vision of the Asian Century, turning Asia as the new centre of global gravity. However, ACD Members have yet to fully capitalize on the ACD platform. Therefore, H.E. Prime Minister of Malaysia recommended that ACD Members should focus on specific programmes that would yield quick and tangible outcomes, thus strengthening the relevance of the ACD. After sharing the relevant experience of Malaysia's journey of nation building, H.E. Prime Minister of Malaysia welcomed the ACD Vision 2030 as a strategic document that would propel the shared continental aspiration in creating an Asian community. H.E. Prime Minister of Malaysia also reaffirmed that as the Co-Prime Mover of Education and Human Resource Development, Malaysia is committed to develop the Asia e University (AeU) to be a major educational platform that would enhance people-to-people connectivity among the ACD Members. H.E. Prime Minister of Malaysia expressed hope that ACD Members would continue to recognize and support the AeU, in fulfilling its role as an instrument for capacity building for the future of Asia.

(16) The Socialist Republic of Viet Nam acknowledged the importance and role of ACD in further strengthening cooperation to ensure rapid growth and sustainable development. Viet Nam underlined that it highly values effort to improve effectiveness of the ACD, in particular the initiative to restructure cooperation into 6 pillars, especially the three priorities. First, Viet Nam believed that it is important to promote multi-dimensional connectivity, which Viet Nam deemed should not be restricted to transportation, logistics, trade and tourism but should also include exchange of policies, culture and people. Second, Viet Nam reiterated the importance of addressing environmental protection as part of social issues to achieve the SDGs. Third, Viet Nam underlined that it is crucial to achieve concrete progress in every single initiative by stepping up

momentum of the existing projects, including those in the sub-regions, such as the Mekong, the Ganga River Basin, and the Amua River Basin. Lastly, with regard to the peace and stability as the foundation of all cooperation, Viet Nam was of the view that it is a shared responsibility to pursue it with sincerity and substantial efforts based on international law and respect for the sovereignty and legitimate interest of each other. Viet Nam concluded the statement by reaffirming its commitment to working closely with other Members to strengthen the cooperation, especially those in the pillars which Viet Nam serves as a co-prime mover.

(17) **The Sultanate of Oman** conveyed the greetings from the Sultan of Oman, who wish for the success of the Summit hosted by the Kingdom of Thailand. Oman highlighted that Asia is a continent of gift from God, where it has a huge area and natural resources which will be able to achieve the development because of good transport and communication. By keeping this momentum, Oman believed that ACD will be able to achieve more in the 6 priority pillars. Oman viewed that the importance of ACD should not be limited to meetings but its sincerity to reflect the objectives and put forward the work to benefit from the service, tourism, logistic and transportation. Oman finally concluded that ACD will be an umbrella for different Asia groups because of its good place in high esteem position.

(18) **The Republic of Indonesia** congratulated the Kingdom of Thailand for the excellent arrangement made for the Summit and especially its effort Thailand had been making during its Chairmanship of the forum in 2015-2016. Indonesia joined other Members in welcoming Turkey and Nepal and stated that under the Chairmanship of the United Arab Emirates, it will add a fruitful year to ACD. Indonesia welcomed the proposed ACD Vision for Asia Cooperation 2030 to be a guide to reinvigorate the ongoing cooperation towards creating a future Asian Community. Indonesia reaffirmed its commitment to be the co-prime mover in the Interrelation of Food, Water and Energy Security as was its previous role in the energy sector. In this regard, the Workshop on Promotion and Standardization of Biofuel in 2014 was part of Indonesia's commitment to the Energy Plan of Action. Indonesia also took note of the importance of the proposed Statement on Reigniting Growth through Partnerships for Connectivity as Indonesia puts special emphasis on the role of connectivity to facilitate and expedite growth for it is its national policy to support the development of leading sectors in a larger context. Connectivity will help bridge the region as diverse as Asia and the continental sub region and landlocked countries. Indonesia ended the remark by stating that the theme "One Asia Diverse Strength" captured all the key principles of ACD and hoping that by reinvigorating the ACD, while maintaining its core value of voluntarism and non-institutionalism, it will unleash the potential of this forum to be more relevant, dynamic and bring more concrete benefits.

(19) **Singapore** noted that the ACD Leaders were meeting at a time of global uncertainty but Asia remained dynamic with many business opportunities. While Asia could not avoid the volatilities in the economic climate, the region's rich resources and strengths could be harnessed to achieve sustainable growth and prosperity. In this regard, Singapore welcomed Thailand's initiative to launch the ACD Vision for Asia Cooperation at this Summit which will chart a clear long-term direction for the shared interests of our countries. Singapore also welcomed the initiative to consolidate the original 20 areas of cooperation into six pillars to sharpen the ACD's

focus and enhance its effectiveness. Singapore expressed the view that efforts towards sustainable and inclusive growth could also benefit from public-private collaboration to tap on the expertise and innovation of the private sector. Singapore concluded by expressing appreciation to Thailand for its leadership as ACD Chair, and for the excellent arrangements and hospitality for the Summit. Singapore also looked forward to the Chairmanship of the United Arab Emirates and the 15th ACD Ministerial Meeting in Abu Dhabi next year.

(20) **Kingdom of Saudi Arabia** extended thanks to the Kingdom of Thailand for its hospitality and the effort during the Chairmanship which has added a lot more to the forum. On behalf of the King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Saudi Arabia thanked His Highness Amir of the State of Kuwait for its generosity in supporting the ACD Secretariat. Saudi Arabia then proposed that ACD Members work hard and join efforts to face challenges to enhance cooperation with specific strategy. Saudi Arabia joined other Members to support the ACD Vision 2030 and will participate actively with the rest of other Members to make the plan to action. With regard to the international law, Saudi Arabia emphasized the sovereignty of the state and stated that any breach of law and violation against international law is undesirable. Finally, Saudi Arabia congratulated the United Arab Emirates for its Chairmanship and looking forward to the working closely with the UAE.

(21) **Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal** expressed its honour as the newest Member to participate in the 2nd ACD Summit. Then congratulated the Kingdom of Thailand for providing dynamic leadership as the Chair of the ACD and for hosting this summit with very relevant theme of "One Asia, Diverse Strengths". Nepal extended best wishes to the United Arab Emirates as the new chair and welcomed the establishment of ACD Permanent Secretariat in Kuwait. Comparing the continent of Asia as a vibrant mosaic with rich diversity of cultures, civilizations as well as diversity of economies and political systems, Nepal reflected that this diverse mosaic is connected by a common identity- the Asian identity. Also, Asia is emerging to be the global economic powerhouse, therefore Nepal urged Member States to work on the strengths for unleashing the potential; to vitalize the economic performance of all the Asian countries; and to ensure that not a single country from Asia will be left behind in this Asian century. For a landlocked country like Nepal, the importance of connectivity cannot be overemphasized, connectivity in all modes will be the key enabler to realize this goal. Nepal further stated that the synergy among the diverse strengths of Asia is a must to cross the equally diverse assortment of hurdles including threat of terrorism, peril of poverty and climate change. A concerted effort among the Asian countries is necessary to decimate these difficulties. In this relation, Nepal expressed sincere thanks to all for providing immediate help in rescue and relief works after the massive devastation caused by the earthquake in April and May 2015. To conclude, Nepal voiced support in the 3 outcome documents and reiterated sincere commitment of Nepal to contribute to the ACD process.

(22) **The Islamic Republic of Pakistan** thanked the Kingdom of Thailand for their warm welcome and generous hospitality and welcomed Turkey and Nepal to the ACD. Pakistan pointed out that Asia remains the fastest growing region of global economy. The ACD as a collective construct, has great potential to emerge as a viable organization for economic and social development of the region. At the same time, poverty, food security, water scarcity, inadequate

health facilities, illiteracy, climate change and natural disasters continue to pose serious challenge to development dividends of the region. Therefore, Pakistan expressed principled support to the ACD Vision 2030 and the 6 priority pillars, hoping that the roadmap of activities and cooperation will provide enormous opportunities to the people of the ACD countries to embark on the path of a sustainable development strategy both nationally and regionally in sync with the global UN agenda. Pakistan also believed that infrastructure development is pivotal to regional connectivity. Pakistan concluded that there is a need to synergise the efforts of ACD with regional organizations such as ASEAN, SAARC, ECO and others, as ACD move forward on the trajectory of its Roadmap. This will help to capitalize on the region's potential. In the end, Pakistan voiced full support to the Vision 2030 and the Bangkok Declaration and also support the establishment of ACD Permanent Secretariat in Kuwait.

(23) **The Philippines** expressed its appreciation to the Kingdom of Thailand for graciously hosting the Second Summit of the Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) and for the excellent arrangements provided to the Philippine delegation and all there present. The Philippines recalled that this second ACD Summit serves as the watermark of our firm desire to reinvigorate the 14 years of cooperation and engagement within the ACD, keeping in mind the changes that had taken place and continue to take place in the global landscape since the ACD was inaugurated in June 2002 in Thailand. The Philippines then the Philippines congratulated and warmly welcomed the United Arab Emirates as the new Chair the ACD, recognizing the UAE's commitment in shaping the direction of the ACD as a regional forum, especially in energy security matters. In this connection, the Philippines as co-prime mover of energy announced to host a high-level "Conference on Energy Security and Sustainability" next year that will include private sector participation aimed as a follow up to the work of the first Pillar and Energy Action Plan. In addition, to build on the gains made at the first ACD Tourism Ministerial Meeting held in Tabriz, Iran last August, the Philippines looks forward to further strengthen the link between tourism promotion and cooperation and the use of energy-efficient, green technologies by relevant stakeholders in the tourism sector. In conclusion, the Philippines commended the State of Kuwait for its hosting of and generous support to the ACD Secretariat, together with a warm welcome to Turkey and Nepal as the new members of the ACD. The Philippines finally expressed sincerest appreciation to Thailand for all its hard work and dedication as outgoing Chair of the ACD in charting the way forward for ACD through the ACD Vision 2030.

(24) **The Republic of Tajikistan** expressed sincere gratitude to H.E. Prime Minister and the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand for warm welcome and for hosting the current Summit. Beginning by stating that this Summit was crucial to address the issues of development of the Asia, contribute to further strengthening of the Dialogue and enrich our mutual relationships. Tajikistan said to have attached great importance to strengthening regional cooperation in such areas as improvement of the quality of infrastructure, trade, investment and finance, tourism, education. Tajikistan also joined Members in supporting promotion of sustainable development as a continuous process between ACD member countries in pursuance of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In addition, Tajikistan was of the view that the role of tourism and education is very important as it is indicative of political stability, improves welfare, reduces poverty and expands ties between people and cultures. Tajikistan also committed to support the

scientific and cultural cooperation as well as energy as its priority of cooperation. To conclude, Tajikistan expressed confidence that the current summit will contribute towards development of further interaction between ACD member states in all areas and will support efforts to carry out the goals.

(25) **The People's Republic of Bangladesh** expressed sincere appreciation to the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand, for the generous Thai hospitality showered upon all delegates to the 2nd ACD Summit and joined colleagues in congratulating the Government of UAE for assuming the Chair of the ACD. Bangladesh also recognizes with appreciation the contributions of the State of Kuwait in supporting the work of the provisional ACD secretariat. Bangladesh said it looks forward to the hosting of the 3rd ACD Summit by the Islamic Republic of Iran and welcomed the two newest members of ACD Nepal and Turkey to the ACD family. Bangladesh cited that it has been a foreign policy aspiration of Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to work closely with all our Asian neighbours to realize the vision of a prosperous, peaceful and seamlessly connected Asian continent. It also reiterated the importance of connectivity to secure inclusive growth and sustainable development in the region and has announced that Bangladesh as a co-prime mover of connectivity pillar, would be happy to host the first ACD Working Group meeting on Connectivity in Dhaka. In addition, Bangladesh looks forward to strongly supporting the science technology and innovation pillar of the ACD Vision and hosting of Working group meetings in the future.

(26) **The Republic of India** began the statement by saluting that this Summit is timely given the challenges nations face today, therefore, India extended sincere appreciation to Thailand for hosting this Summit and for the sincere efforts to make this dialogue into a forum of continent-wide cooperation with the aim of creating idea of an Asian community. India further indicated that Asia is now facing with crises of slowing GDP growth, stagnation of international trade and on top of that, the menace of terrorism. India emphasized that Asia needs to stand united against terrorism in its all form and manifestations and in this informal dialogue mechanism of Leaders, it should address the issue bilaterally and multilaterally to get rid of threat to societies, communities and nations. India then moved on to the role of connectivity in Asia, suggesting that Asia needs to be more interconnected and should begin at the sub-regional level, progress to regional and then expand to link regions. India is now connecting with ASEAN, reaching out to Central Asia and emphasise Blue Economy with coastal and island nations of the Indian Ocean and Pacific. In conclusion, India reiterated that ACD is taking an important step of establishing the Permanent Secretariat but it should not lose sight of significance of informality and voluntary nature of ACD as its core values.

(27) **Kyrgyz Republic** thanked the Kingdom of Thailand for the warm welcome, hospitality and the excellent facilities of the Second Summit of the Asia Cooperation Dialogue. At the outset, Kyrgyz voiced concerns over the growth of the global threats such as international terrorism and religious extremism and suggested that the stability and development can only be achieved through dialogue. Kyrgyz stated that Asia Cooperation Dialogue in this context is considered as an important area of maintaining a comprehensive, real and effective dialogue in Asia for the benefit of countries and joined other Members in supporting the ACD Vision 2030 and also support the identification of six high-priority areas of cooperation. Further, Kyrgyzstan, as a land-locked

country, said it is ready to become an active participant in the development of transport corridor and welcome the establishment of the new and diversify existing transit corridors from Southeast Asia to Europe through Central Asia. Kyrgyz was in favor of active cooperation between Asian countries in the energy field, mentioning the project "CASA-1000", as one of the most promising projects, which will promote the development and interaction of the Central Asian and South Asian energy markets. Finally, Kyrgyz concluded that it sees great potential in strengthening cooperation in the field of education, tourism industry and the promotion of intercultural dialogue and mutual understanding between the peoples of the region.

(28) **Russian Federation** expressed gratitude to the Thai hosts for the warm welcome and outstanding organization of the meeting. Russia underlined that interaction between the member-states of the Eurasian Economic Union, ASEAN and various ASEAN-centric formats, Shanghai Cooperation Organization, APEC and new multilateral financial institutions like New BRICS Bank and AIIB is increasing in scope and improving in quality. It is important that this cooperation evolves in accordance with the norms of the international law and such principles as non-interference into internal affairs of sovereign states, respect for diversity of cultures and traditions, and recognition of the right of each country to choose its own model of development. In this regard, Russia highly appreciated the efforts undertaken by Thailand as the ACD Chair. In terms of areas of cooperation within the ACD, Russia believed it is necessary to focus on strengthening connectivity and on establishing sustainable business and cultural links among member-countries and the next step should be establishing relative Working Groups, which will identify further practical measures to increase cooperation in the defined pillars. Russia then mentioned the priority areas of cooperation including regional connectivity, energy security and promotion of innovative and technological cooperation and concluded that Russia looks forward to mutually beneficial cooperation with the regional community in harnessing them. It is Russia's strong belief that by building upon their respective competitive advantages, the ACD countries can bring about a new quality of economic growth and stability in the region.

(29) **Japan** expressed appreciations to the 2nd Summit in Thailand, stating that ACD is a unique framework that includes the members from all over Asia and has diverse religious and cultural background. Japan then made a remark focused on 3 main issues which are 1) Sustainable Development Goals, which Japan announced to extend around 1.1 billion assistance to international health organizations with a view to achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC). And given that the empowerment of women is essential to the realization of sustainable growth, Japan also expressed its intention to make further contribution to help develop the capability of human resource development for roughly 5,000 female administrative officers. 2) Connectivity. Japan asserted that Asia has the high potential as the world growth center and enhancement of connectivity is important in order to fulfill it. Japan will continue to contribute to enhancing connectivity in Asia by providing countries in Asia with quality infrastructure. 3) Human Resource Development. Japan emphasized local job creation and human resource development for quality infrastructure. And through Public Private Partnership (PPP), Japan will provide effective and fine-tuned support based on local needs. In conclusion, Japan announced that it will start the "Innovative Asia" initiative, which aims to promote innovation in the whole Asia by enhancing the circulation of competent human resources between Asian countries and Japan by inviting 1000

students from Asian countries over the next five years from 2017.

(30) **Afghanistan** began by expressing sincere gratitude and appreciation to the Kingdom of Thailand for excellent arrangement of this Summit. Taking this opportunity, Afghanistan also congratulated the United Arab Emirates as the new ACD Chair, thanked the State of Kuwait for hosting the first Summit and welcomed Turkey and Nepal as new members of ACD. Afghanistan then expressed its confidence on vision, mission and goals of ACD and believed that ACD can play a vital role in strengthening mutual trust, expanding collaboration and cooperation among Member States for peace, stability and prosperity. Given importance to the regional cooperation among ACD Members in trade and investment, Afghanistan said it could offer great opportunity for promoting regional connectivity and economic integration as its geographic location is at a crossroad between South Asia and Central Asia, where it could turn Afghanistan into a regional transit hub. Furthermore, Afghanistan reaffirmed its commitment to play its role in expanding and strengthening the trade and investments as well as the initiatives of development of tourism industry, educational interaction and relax visa regulation for the nationals of the ACD Member States. Afghanistan concluded by calling for close cooperation from ACD Member States to fight against terrorism which it viewed as a common enemy of the humanity.

(31) **Kazakhstan** expressed sincere gratitude to the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand for the warm hospitality and hosting the Summit. And in this opportunity, Kazakhstan welcomed the Republic of Turkey and Nepal as new members of ACD and congratulated the United Arab Emirates as the new ACD Chair. Kazakhstan was confident that new friends will provide high-quality practical content to our comprehensive cooperation. Moving on to the next topic of the statement, Kazakhstan reiterated its strong commitment to being part of the implementation of the agreed 6 pillars of cooperation in line with the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to promote inclusive growth and sustainable development in the region. In addition, Kazakhstan has developed a new draft of the Concept of ACD Transport Links Development and hoped that this Concept will be supported by the Co-Prime Movers of the Connectivity pillar. Furthermore, Kazakhstan reaffirmed that it will continue to promote water, food and energy security in order to build a safer and more prosperous regional neighbourhood. In conclusion of the Statement, Kazakhstan reiterated the readiness to develop and strengthen cultural and humanitarian, social and economic and political relations in the framework of ACD Dialogue and wished all good luck and success in the implementation of the strategic goals of our Dialogue.

(32) **Mongolia** expressed deepest gratitude to the Royal Thai Government for its warm hospitality and excellent arrangements made for the 2nd Asia Cooperation Dialogue Summit and took this opportunity to join other heads of delegations in congratulating the United Arab Emirates on assuming chairmanship of ACD as well as welcoming Nepal and Turkey as new members of our organization. Mongolia was of the view that this forum represents one of important platforms in Asia continent for addressing common challenges facing us and fulfilling the shared aspirations. ACD is well positioned to constitute missing links in Asia by incorporating every Asian country and building a unique Asian Community. Therefore, Mongolia welcomed the establishment of permanent ACD Secretariat which would greatly contribute to fulfilling and realizing the 6 consolidated pillars of our cooperation as well as other activities of ACD. Further Mongolia applauded the adoption of the ACD Vision for Asia Cooperation 2030 that reaffirms the

commitments to the ACD and Pan-Asian partnership, as well as the ACD Statement on Reigniting Growth through Partnerships for Connectivity and medium-term Blueprint for 2017-2020. In terms of connectivity, the unique landlocked location of Mongolia is limiting its access and opportunities to actively participate in the international trade and regional integration, therefore, Mongolia called for the enhancing of connectivity both in terms of physical and institutional infrastructures and Mongolia was eager to contribute and benefit from the joint projects of connectivity networks to be identified and implemented in the continent. Making full use of its location Mongolia could become a bridge, connecting Asia and Europe since the closest route linking Eurasia goes through Mongolia which would help expanding cooperation in logistics and transport infrastructures. In conclusion, Mongolia expressed firm belief that the discussions and talks here at this forum under the theme “One Asia, Diverse Strengths: Enhanced Partnership towards New Dynamism” would produce tangible outcomes in formulating directions for future cooperation in Asia.

(33) **Turkey** expressed sincere thanks to Government of the Kingdom of Thailand, for the warm hospitality offered and congratulated for the excellent work Thailand accomplished during ACD Chairmanship. Turkey illustrated its relations and dialogue partners with Asian countries and organizations, including its recent membership in the ACD. Turkey values the geographical, cultural and religious diversity among the ACD members as an asset and as an opportunity for a wider dialogue and the theme of this Summit “*One Asia, Diverse Strengths*” fits very well to the aim and spirit of this platform. Turkey pointed out that ACD will be celebrating its 15th Anniversary next year. In this regard, three documents that were accepted today: “*ACD Vision for Asia Cooperation 2030*”, “*ACD Statement on Reigniting Growth Through Partnership for Connectivity*” and the “*Bangkok Declaration*” will constitute important references and roadmaps for the future works. Further, Turkey mentioned that Members have shown ownership to the principles of sovereign equality and non-interference between the states on this occasion. Turkey also commended “*ACD Connect Business Forum 2016*” as a very fruitful occasion for entrepreneurs and business circles to know each other and exchange views. Turkey believed that the rise of Asia in the global economy will be further strengthened as ACD achievements progress. Turkey will always be ready to be an active partner in this process. Towards the end, Turkey expressed its appreciations to the welcoming remarks of all the countries for the membership of Turkey to the ACD and extended best wishes of success to the United Arab Emirates for the incoming Chairmanship.

After the conclusion of statements by all Heads of Delegation, the Chair invited Mr. Sunil Chopra, Senior Advisor to the CEO & MD of the Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), India and Mr. Jack Ma, Alibaba Group’s Chairman, as representatives of the ACD private sector and participants of ACD Connect Business Forum, to present recommendations on public-private partnership towards enhancing financial and digital connectivity in the region.

(34) **Mr. Sunil Chopra, Senior Advisor to the CEO & MD of the Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), India** recommended that development of Fintech requires governmental action and coordination and thus are relevant to the Heads of State of Asia. As the Thai PM said, Fintech

must be seen in the context of "the needs of each country" because national priorities may be different. Mr. Sunil further suggested that growth and market success of any Fintech hub originates from an integrated ecosystem that brings with it the expertise, experience, technology and facilities of all the entities together, in which he recommended 1) Entrepreneurial and innovative mindset, openness and attitude towards globalization. 2) Government programmes and incentives for start-ups with favourable policies and tax incentives specific to the Fintech sector. 3) Technology readiness, skills and infrastructure such as the penetration levels of smartphones. 4) Regulatory support and a supportive legislative framework to encourage the establishment of start-up firms. 5) Funding Availability of venture capitalists and other investors interested in investing in risky start-up firms are imperative to induce capital in the sector. 6) Develop a dynamic digital infrastructure and facilities such as office space, hardware and other logistical arrangements. IoT infrastructure is important so that communication and connection is smooth across all channels and cross-border connectivity connecting Asia as one community and reducing transaction costs is possible. 7) Introduce special work visa for start-up entrepreneurs and technology experts to attract foreign talent. 8) Build a strong technological and entrepreneurial talent pool by engaging universities and institutions. Academic bodies should be encouraged to act as catalysts towards building an innovative mindset of technological advancement and proto-typing from the very beginning. 9) Offer attractive tax incentives to start-ups and venture capitalists. 10) Promote internationally and infuse a strong culture of knowledge-sharing by organizing a series of events inside and outside the country in order to position itself as a global Fintech and technological hub and inviting leaders of start-up companies.

(35) **Mr. Jack Ma, Alibaba Group's Executive Chairman** said Asia was not only the fastest growing continent but also the best continent suited to solve poverty and inequality. Technology would help create jobs, rather than killing jobs, as widely feared. The next 30 years will be critical for the digital age because of online and offline retail platforms, the Internet of Things, internet-based financing for greater financial inclusion and new technological knowledge. Mr. Ma ~~picked up~~ highlighted the theme "We believe that small is beautiful, powerful and wonderful" to talk about the inclusivity and openness of Asia as a region, pointing to how mobile technology, in particular, had the potential to overcome geographic challenges with regard to trade promotion, financing and job creation. He also emphasized the importance of infusing innovation and imagination into education in Asia. At the end, Mr. Ma has called on the ACD Member states for more policy coordination and infrastructures that support individuals under 30, as well as companies with fewer than 30 employees as they will be key driver for future economic success on a global scale. By working together, Mr. Ma suggested that member countries had the ability to create the next stage of globalization, one that evolves away from enabling large corporations and on to realizing the potential of smaller businesses.

(36) **Mr. Bundit Limschoon, ACD Secretary General** deliberated on the developments of ACD over the past 14 years and applauded 3 main proposals ACD has been making namely; 1) ACD Vision 2030 2) 6 priority pillars of cooperation 3) The establishment of the ACD Secretariat with the hospitality of the State of Kuwait. In addition to strengthening from within, the Secretary General also pointed out that the ACD University Network and ACD Business Forum are the result of an attempt to cover the academic and private sectors to ensure more tangible outcomes of

the forum. Mr. Limschoon reaffirmed that all these developments and changes reflect the evolving nature of the ACD. However, these changes will not affect the core values of our dialogue forum, which are positive thinking, inclusiveness and respect for the diversity and comfort level of all participants. The Secretary General then introduced the 3 documents to be adopted later by the Leaders and expressed appreciations to the Kingdom of Thailand for her efforts in formulating and preparing the important 3 outcome documents as ways and means to move the ACD forward. He also stated that these documents reflect political views of our Leaders, and will send this message to the world that Asia is ready to be the driver of growth and global prosperity, as well as to face any challenges together. The Secretary General ended the report by stating that, even under the current global phenomenon, Asia is still able to stand on its feet and prosper. It is most important that among the differences we share, we can live harmoniously with respect to those differences of each identities and this Summit along with the agreements of the Leaders, will mark the beginning of truly working together, to open a new era of the ACD and shape the future of Asia, One Asia.

Towards the end of the meeting, H.E. General Prayut Chan-o-cha, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand expressed his appreciations to all ACD Leaders and Heads of Delegation on behalf of the government and the people of Thailand. He then called for actions and implementation of the three agreed documents to ensure a tangible cooperation in the ACD. In this connection, H.E. the Prime Minister requested the ACD Secretary General to follow-up of the Summit's outcomes including the 6 priority pillars and proposed that targeted work plans in achievable areas under the 6 pillars should be reported at ACD Foreign Ministers' Meeting on the sidelines of the UNGA72 in September 2017. He also stressed the importance of the ACD's private sector as the main regional economic driving force as well as the importance of partnership between governments and the private sectors in achieving "One Asia". He also encouraged all Member States to participate in the operation of the Secretariat and hoped that a conclusion about the next step of the Secretariat could be reached at the earliest. Finally, H.E. the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand thanked all Leaders, Heads of Delegation, and distinguished delegates attending the meeting and announced the closing of the 2nd ACD Summit in Thailand.

- End of the Meeting -