

Qingdao Initiative

We, Ministers of Foreign Affairs and other Heads of Delegation from 22 countries, namely, the Kingdom of Bahrain, the People's Republic of Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the People's Republic of China, the Republic of India, the Republic of Indonesia, Japan, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Republic of Korea, the State of Kuwait, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Union of Myanmar, the Sultanate of Oman, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the Republic of the Philippines, the State of Qatar, the Republic of Singapore, the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, the Kingdom of Thailand and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, gathered in Qingdao, China for the Third ACD Foreign Ministers' Meeting, during which we held far-ranging and intensive discussions on Asian energy cooperation, and reached common position on a number of important questions.

Endorsing the consensus points reached during the First Meeting of the ACD Working Group on Energy Security held in Manama, the Kingdom of Bahrain on 13 January 2004 and the Second Meeting of the ACD Working Group on Energy held in Makati City, the Republic of the Philippines from 19-20 May 2004.

Recognizing the need for a secure, stable and sustainable energy supply and demand.

Conscious of the importance of energy security to all countries due to its direct linkage to economic development, impact on regional as well as global peace and stability, and the welfare of future generations.

Maintaining that sustained and stable energy production and supply serve the fundamental interests of each country and constitute the common aspiration and objective of their national energy policies.

Stressing that, as a common problem facing the international community, energy security can only be attained through candid dialogue and mutually beneficial cooperation, which should become an important component of regional and international cooperation.

Noting that Asia is an important player in the global structure of energy supply and demand, being home to some of the world's major energy producers as well as consumers, and that there exist opportunities for cooperation in sustainable energy development.

Recognizing the necessity of close communication and cooperation with other international energy fora and organizations as well as relevant ministries or agencies in charge of energy in each country in conducting effective energy cooperation.

Reaffirming the commitments of ACD countries to enhance energy cooperation and dialogue based on the principles of mutual respect, equality, reciprocity and mutual benefits, so as to attain energy security for sustainable development in Asia.

We hereby decide that the following cooperation be implemented voluntarily in the spirit of ACD:

1. Enhancing exchanges of information on energy among ACD countries, so as to promote openness and transparency of energy situation.
2. Encouraging cooperation on energy exploration and exploitation, including participation of the private sector, as well as actively exploring the potential for new energy reserves in Asia through consultation among interested parties.

3. Strengthening cooperation on energy conservation, energy efficiency, renewable energy with special emphasis on the increasing use of bio-energy and clean energy, so as to achieve balance in energy utilization and environmental protection in Asian countries.

4. Promoting scientific, technological and commercial cooperation for the development and production of energy from renewable resources including through wind, bio-gas and solar processes.

5. Enhancing cooperation in rural electrification and exploring the feasibility of creating a regional power grid, which could be helpful for supplementing regional power needs.

6. Encouraging countries to exchange and share views on the international energy market, with a view to facilitating a fair energy pricing for both consumers and producers in Asia.

7. Promoting a conducive environment to attract investors to play a more significant role in the energy sector of ACD member countries.

8. Strengthening coordination and cooperation, within their capacities and national interests, in the construction of oil and gas pipelines and other means of energy transportation, storage facilities/stockpiling as well as hydro power stations, and promoting the possibility of establishing a regional network to facilitate the efficient transport/transmission of energy.

9. Taking into account the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), ensuring safe transportation along vital energy shipping routes through dialogue and cooperation, while taking also into full consideration the territorial integrity and the security concerns of all parties concerned.

10. Strengthening cooperation in human resources development and promoting technology sharing through training and exchange of best practices, with a view to building capacity in the energy sector.

11. Exploring the possibility of establishing a forum on energy cooperation in Asia, to follow up the outcomes of this meeting including exploring specific ways and areas for energy cooperation in Asia and encouraging related enterprises, institutions and agencies in all countries as well as various sub-region of ACD, to actively participate in the activities. The said forum should be open and not exclusive to ACD members. The ACD Working Group on Energy should determine the mandate and the scope of responsibilities of the forum on energy cooperation.

Adopted on 22 June 2004 in Qingdao, China.