

ACD/AMM/2009/02(i)



**Revised Report of the Ministerial meeting of Asia Cooperation Dialogue
(ACD)
held on the sidelines of the 64th Session of the UNGA
on 28th September 2009**

- (1) The Ministerial Meeting of the Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) took place on 28th September 2009 from 8.00 a.m. to 10.00 p.m. in the Delegates Dining Room of the United Nations Headquarters in New York. All 31 member countries were represented and a list of the respective delegations is attached. (Annex I)
- (2) The meeting commenced with welcome remarks by the host, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Sri Lanka, Hon. Rohitha Bogollagama. Thereafter, the outgoing Chairman of the ACD Kazakhstan (Their Head of Delegation Hon. Nurian Yermekbayev, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan) made a statement. The statement is at Annex II.
- (3) The Chairmanship of the ACD was thereafter formally handed over to Sri Lanka. Following the acceptance of the Chairmanship on behalf of Sri Lanka, Hon. Rohitha Bogollagama, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Sri Lanka made a Statement focusing on the theme "The Spirit of Asia: Global Economic Recovery and Development Prospects" of the forthcoming 8th Ministerial Meeting of the ACD in Colombo. He also referred to the preparations being made in Colombo for the meeting in October.
- (4) The Chairman thereafter invited delegations to make their comments under the agenda item "Open Discussion". Heads of Delegations from the following countries made interventions and their remarks are as follows:

- PDR, Laos –
They strongly support the theme chosen for the 8th Ministerial Meeting. Confirmed that their Deputy Prime Minister will lead the delegation to Colombo for the October meeting. Laos proposed a comprehensive discussion on the impact of the global economic crisis on Asian economies. They proposed that stimulus packages be considered for Asian economies severely affected by the global economic downturn.
- Russian Federation –
Russia confirmed it would participate in the Colombo meeting. They emphasized that decisions with regard to the global economic crisis should be taken collectively and transparently if they are to be legitimate. They welcomed a very focused discussion on practical ways to mitigate the impact of the global economic crisis within the Asian region. They have initiated several projects to share their expertise in agricultural development.
- Malaysia –
Confirmed participation in the Colombo meeting. Stated that they are the prime movers on E-education along with Iran and explained the various activities initiated to promote E-education. They welcomed the theme of the Colombo meeting and proposed a very practical discussion on how to address the impact of the economic crisis.
- China –
Confirmed participation in the Colombo meeting and referred to a series of seminars on poverty reduction sponsored by them for ACD countries. They emphasized that poverty reduction should be a key focus within the ACD and that initiating various practical programmes to address this challenge was the best way forward.

- Japan –
They referred to various programmes organized for ACD members on education and biological diversity. They emphasized the need for member countries to share the expertise and strengths with other members to help stimulate positive development. On the global economic crisis they said the Washington consensus had clearly failed and that the time was appropriate for new thinking to reduce the impact of the regular cycle of economic recession that was now becoming a standard characteristic. They said the Colombo meeting should focus on ways to overcome frequent recession which was severely impacting on poorer countries.
- Indonesia –
Referred to the need for national and sub regional initiatives to be assessed and synergized. They said the current global economic crisis has affected Asia less due to the lessons they learnt from the Asian economic crisis. They, therefore, suggested that the focus of the Colombo meeting should be on stimulating growth and reducing impact of the economic slow down in the Western countries.
- Philippines –
They elaborated on various initiatives to promote energy security. It was emphasized that there are vast energy resources in the Asian region and that these resources need to be harnessed for the benefit of the members. They also referred to a project on green industry initiated by them among member countries. They also felt ACD should support their initiatives in the areas of interfaith and intercivlisational dialogue. They emphasized that peace and development should be a key focus of the ACD.
- Republic of Korea –

They stated that it would be useful to have a discussion in Colombo centered on decisions take at the recent G-20 Summit in Pittsburgh. ROK stated that they will host the next G-20 Summit and would like to reflect the views of the ACD countries during next year's Summit. They, therefore, believed that the Colombo meeting could make a useful submission to the G-20 on ways to address the global economic crisis.

- Oman –

They called for a discussion on the global debt crisis and its impact on the ACD countries during the meeting in Colombo.

- Singapore –

Confirmed participation in the Colombo meeting. They detailed projects initiated by them to promote road highway development within the region. they focused on the value of promoting connectivity through development of roads and highways linking up the region

- India –

They stated that Sri Lanka had produced an excellent concept paper for the forthcoming 8th Ministerial Meeting in Colombo. They said the Colombo meeting should focus on assessing the economic prospects for the region in the present context.

- Qatar –

They emphasized the need for ACD to have a more defined agenda on its priorities with a key focus on promoting economic interactions among member countries.

- Uzbekistan –

Stated that they believe the Colombo meeting needs to take the form of a major discussion on the global financial crisis from an Asian perspective.

- Iran –
Confirmed participation in Colombo by the Minister of Foreign Affairs. Stated that they fully support the philosophy behind the ACD and were keen to support initiatives on energy and food security.
- Thailand –
As the coordinator, appreciated the excellent organization at the Meeting in New York and called for continued collection efforts to address such global socio-economic and political challenges. Thailand looked for another engaging discussion where we could again together share our good practices and seek solution to the conflicts in Colombo.
- Bangladesh –
Also appreciated the excellent organization of the meeting in New York. Confirmed participation in the Colombo meeting.
- Pakistan –
Confirmed participation in Colombo meeting. Appreciated the theme of the forthcoming 8th Ministerial Meeting and recommends a greater focus on the economic crisis and also assistance from multilateral institutions to affected countries.

Conclusion :

The Chair (Sri Lanka) requested delegations to confirm participation in the Colombo meeting at the earliest and appreciated the contribution of the members on key areas for cooperation namely health, E-education, food security, poverty alleviation, agricultural development, biodiversity and road development and agreed that Colombo meeting could have a focused discussion on the economic crisis.
