

## **Press Release**

Sri Lanka, as the Chair of the 8<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Meeting convened the Coordinating Group Consultations of the Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD), in Colombo to discuss matters pertaining to the 8<sup>th</sup> ACD Ministerial Meeting.

The Coordinating Group Consultations comprising delegates from Thailand (ACD Coordinator), Kazakhstan (past Chair), Iran (ACD future Chair) and Sri Lanka (current Chair) was held on 12<sup>th</sup> October 2009 at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Sri Lanka.

The Consultations was chaired by Additional Secretary/Political Affairs (East Asia and the Pacific) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Sri Lanka.

The Group Consultations highlighted, among others, the need to renew the mandate of the High Level Study Group, comprising of representatives of all 31 member states, reviewing the progress of the projects under the identified twenty areas of cooperation, such as Poverty Alleviation, Environment Education, E-education, Energy, Small and Medium Enterprises, Information Technology and Strengthening the Cooperation to facilitate the clusters of Trade, Tourism and Transport.

The 8<sup>th</sup> ACD Ministerial Meeting is scheduled to take place on 15<sup>th</sup> October 2009, preceded by Prime and Co-Prime Mover Consultations at senior officials' level on 14<sup>th</sup> October 2009.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Colombo

13<sup>th</sup> October 2009