

**\*\*FINAL\*\***

**Report by Oknha Kith Meng,  
Chairman of the Cambodia Chamber of Commerce and  
Chair of ACMECS Joint Business Council  
At the Dialogue between ACMECS Leaders and Business Sector**

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- *Samdech Techo Hun Sen, Chairman of the ACMECS Summit, Prime Minister of The Kingdom of Cambodia;*
- *Your Excellency Prime Ministers, Leaders of the ACMECS Countries;*
- *Excellency Secretary General of ASEAN*
- *Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen*
  
- On behalf of the ACMECS Joint Business Council (ACMECS JBC), it is indeed my great honor for having this opportunity a dialogue with the Leaders of the ACMECS member countries, and would also like to thank Your Excellencies for taking time to meet with us, the ACMECS Joint Business Council (JBC).
- As Chair of the ACMECS JBC, I would like to make a report of the ACMECS Business Forum held on 16 November 2010 at Cambodiana Hotel in Phnom Penh. The Forum was attended by more than 350 business representatives from ACMECS countries.
- The Forum has discussed on the areas and sectors of high potential for business collaboration and put forwards initiatives for the facilitation of trade and investment, tourism, agricultural cooperation, transport, industry promotion, and human resource development. All delegates also had a chance to obtain information on business environment and opportunities in ACMECS countries, as presented by respective speakers from Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam.

## **1. Strengthening ACMECS Business Councils:**

- First of all, we are pleased to inform Your Excellencies the ACMECS Leaders that the ACMECS Business Councils, at its meeting in Bangkok on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2010, agreed to set up the ACMECS Joint Business Council (ACMECS JBC), in order to encourage ACMECS business community's participation in the ACMECS Action Plan, and to ensure continuity of their work plans and activities. Chair and Vice Chair of the ACMECS JBC would be appointed on a two-year rotation basis.
- It was also agreed that a representative from Cambodia and a representative from Lao PDR would be respectively appointed as Chair and Vice Chair for the first two-year term.
- The ACMECS Joint Business Council-Thailand Chapter has been assigned to operate a permanent secretariat for the Council for the first 4-year term.

- We hope that the newly set up ACMECS JBC would play its active roles in enhancing business collaboration and promoting trade and investment opportunities within ACMECS member countries.

***Samdech Techo, Chairman of the ACMECS meeting;***

- The ACMECS business community calls upon the Leaders of the ACMECS countries to fully materialize and implement the economic cooperation strategy in order to facilitate deeper economic integration among ACMECS countries.
- Urgent actions and closer cooperation among the ACMECS governments are greatly needed within the framework specified in the Bagan Declaration with a view promoting ACMECS prosperity and sustainability development.
- Special attention should be paid to following recommendations with a priority to shaded projects.

## **2. As for Trade and Investment Facilitation**

- 2.1.** We believe that development and implementation of the Sister Cities Program would be a vital mechanism to help achieve the goal of ACMECS strategy as planned. We, therefore, urge the ACMECS governments to **expedite the formation of Sister Cities**.
- 2.2. On promotion and facilitation of border trade transaction,** it is essential to develop the payment system among ACMECS countries.

## **3. Agriculture Cooperation**

- 3.1. On agriculture cooperation,** we would like to urge the ACMECS governments to expedite implementation of **the Contract Farming**.

To make the Contract Farming more significance, there is a need to explore and formulate good practice of mutually beneficial Contract Farming projects; to expedite the signing of MOU on Contract Farming within ACMECS countries; and to promote the usage of local currencies for the Contract Farming projects.

- 3.2. On Joint venture for the promotion of seed production project,** we propose to the ACMECS governments as follows.
  - i) To add crops, namely, paddy (rice), oil-seeds, and pulses/beans and fruit seeds under the project, other than corn, vegetable, and flower;
  - ii) To extend the project inclusive of B2B seed production in order to encourage the private sector production of the high-yield-hybrid seeds.

#### 4 **On Tourism Promotion**

The ACMECS JBC recognizes that the establishment of the **ACMECS Single Visa Scheme** will take longer time to be implemented. To launch the marketing concept of visiting five countries as one destination, the Council proposes the adoption of a “**single visa for ACMECS’ package tours**” in order to promote tourism industry and induce travelers into the ACMECS sub-region.

#### 5 **Transportation Facilitation and Cooperation**

6.1. **On utilization of the existing regional economic corridor**, priority should be put on:

- To accelerate ratification of protocol and annexes of the GMS-CBTA in order to make full use of these existing regional economic corridors;

6.1. **On logistics improvement**, the ACMECS JBC’s recommendations are as follows.

- To set up a joint working group on Third Mekong Bridge in order to make full use of this bridge and improve logistics services in this sub-region.
- To establish a **Sub-regional Logistics Service Alliance Scheme** in order to create a network of logistics and transport links in the ACMECS Sub-region.

#### 6 **On Industry and Investment Promotion**

Priority should be put on:

- To set up a Joint Working Group to follow-up and update information on the current Special Economic Zone (SEZ) development in ACMECS countries. This would help **promote and utilize the existing industrial estates and SEZ in the sub-region.**

#### 7 **Human Resource Cooperation**

In order to promote ACMECS human resource cooperation and enhance HRD capacity building, we would like to urge ACMECS countries to give special attention on the following initiatives:

- To set up a vocational training institute in ACMECS countries and promote university networks.
- To provide financial and technical assistance for ACMECS countries and advance the number of scholarship in the cooperation sectors of ACMECS.
- To encourage development of competency standards and skills certification system among ACMECS countries.
- To establish a labor market information network in order share labor market information and experience in managing oversea workers.

***Your Excellency Samdech Techo Prime Minister of Cambodia and Chairman of the ACMECS Summit and Your Excellencies ACMECS Leaders, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,***

In conclusion, I would like to point out that with a view to facilitating the steady implementation of the ACMECS Action Plan, effective monitoring system (e.g. introduction of “**Score-Card**” system) and yearly review by Ministerial level should be considered.

In closing, I wish *Samdech Techo* continues good health and ACMECS Leaders good health and safe return home.

May I give the floor to *Samdech Techo*, Chairman of the ACMECS and Business summit Leader for his remarks.

Thank you very much for your kind attention.