

**REPORT
OF THE ACMECS SENIOR OFFICIALS' MEETING
Bangkok, Thailand, 6 October 2009**

1. The ACMECS Senior Officials' Meeting was convened on 6th October 2009 in Bangkok, Thailand.
2. The Meeting was chaired by Mrs. Chitriya Pinthong, Deputy Permanent Secretary of Foreign Affairs, ACMECS SOM Leader of Thailand and attended by H.E.Mrs. Tuot Panha, ACMECS SOM Leader of the Kingdom of Cambodia, Mr. Latsamy Keomany, ACMECS SOM Leader of Lao PDR, Mr. Kyaw Tin, ACMECS SOM Leader of the Union of Myanmar and Mr. Hoang Thuy Duong, ACMECS SOM Leader of Vietnam. The list of delegates appears as **Annex 1**.

Agenda Item 1 : Adoption of the Agenda

3. The adopted Agenda appears as **Annex 2**.

Agenda Item 2 : Business Arrangements

4. The Meeting was arranged in a plenary session.

Agenda Item 3 : Review of the Progress on ACMECS Cooperation since the 3rd ACMECS Summit in Hanoi, Vietnam

5. The Meeting was briefed by the Chairs of Sector Working Groups on the progress in the implementation of ACMECS projects since the 3rd ACMECS Summit in their respective sectors of ACMECS cooperation. The reports of the Sector Working Groups appear as **Annex 3**.
6. The Meeting agreed to give the comments on the draft ACMECS Plan of Action, which has been updated to include the Environment sector as the new area of cooperation agreed during the 3rd ACMECS Summit. The ACMECS Plan of Action shall be reviewed every two years to facilitate the implementation of the ACMECS programs and projects. The Meeting agreed to finalize the draft ACMECS Plan of Action and to submit to the ACMECS Ministerial Meeting for consideration. The draft ACMECS Plan of Action 2009-2012 appears as **Annex 4**.

7. The Meeting agreed to expedite the implementation of One Stop Service Centers and Single Stop Inspection in all major border checkpoints, and to encourage trade, investment and economic activities in the ACMECS Sister Cities along the border areas.
8. Lao PDR and Cambodia updated the Meeting on the progress of finalization of the draft MOUs on Contract Farming.
9. The Meeting emphasized the need to strengthen investment in industrial infrastructure particularly supporting and logistic industries as well as Special Border Economic Zones, Industrial Estates and co-production ventures along the East West Economic Corridor, Southern Economic Corridor and areas along the borders of the ACMECS countries. The Meeting agreed to continue the cooperation on energy-related projects involving ACMECS member countries in order to promote energy efficiency and conservation in the sub-region.
10. The Meeting noted with satisfaction the progress in the road connectivity, particularly the “missing link” projects that aim to complement and enhance the transportation networks under the Greater Mekong Subregion cooperation framework. The Meeting welcomed Thailand’s assistance in the recent completion of Road No. 67 in Cambodia (Choam-Sa Ngam-Anlong Veng-Siem Reap) which was inaugurated in 2008, as well as Thailand’s pledge to provide funding for the 30km road link between Thingannyinaung and Kawkareik in Myanmar and the Road No. 68 (Chong Chom-Kralanh) in Cambodia. The Meeting further noted Thailand’s assistance in conducting Feasibility Studies on the road construction of Route 11 and Phu Du (Uttaradit) – Pak Lai Route in Lao PDR. In addition to road link, the Meeting also welcomed Thailand’s offer to provide assistance to Lao PDR for the railway extension of Thanaleng to Vientiane.
11. The Meeting congratulated the commencement of the exchange of traffic rights’ arrangement among Lao PDR, Thailand, and Vietnam along the East-West Economic Corridor in June 2009 as well as the recent Signing of the Addendum to the MOU on Bilateral Exchange of Traffic Rights at Aranyaprathet-Poi Pet border which marked the progress in the initial implementation of the Cross Border Transport Agreement (CBTA) under GMS framework.
12. The Meeting encouraged Thailand and Cambodia to accelerate the implementation of the ACMECS Single Visa and the other members to

join the scheme, to realise the Leaders' vision of "Five Countries One Destination."

13. The Meeting welcomed Vietnam's Concept Paper on environment cooperation and agreed with the proposal of Vietnam to organize an expert group meeting by the end of this year for proceeding further steps.
14. The Meeting recognized the role of the Mekong Institute (MI) located in Northeastern Thailand as an international training center to further promote human resource development and training for countries in the sub-region.
15. The Meeting urged the effective implementation of the ACMECS Health Sector's Plan for Combating Avian Influenza and Other Emerging Infectious Diseases. The Meeting stressed the need to expedite the existing Joint Action Programs and Joint Cross-Border Activities on Communicable Disease Control and Disease Outbreak Response.
16. The Meeting emphasized the role of public and private sector at the local level and encouraged the regular meetings among trade and commerce associations, business peoples, and local communities of the ACMECS member countries. The Meeting also encouraged the early implementation of the ACMECS Business Council's common proposal on promoting trade and investment in ACMECS countries.
17. The Meeting noted the slow progress in the implementation of the common projects under the ACMECS framework due to the lack of funding. In this regard, the Meeting urged the Development Partners to provide more financial and technical assistances in supporting the ACMECS projects.
18. The Meeting emphasized the need for the engagement of Development Partners in socio-economic support. The Meeting took note of the revised list of Flagship Projects for Development Partners' consideration and would finalize it before submitting to the next ACMECS Ministerial Meeting for adoption. The Meeting noted the role of Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the People's Republic of China in GMS, Japan in Mekong-Japan and the US in the future cooperation framework in the Mekong region. The Meeting also emphasized the importance of complementarities and synergy of works of each Mekong sub-region framework.

Agenda Item 4 : Other matters

19. The SOM Leaders welcomed Vietnam's offer to host the next ACMECS SOM in 2010.
20. The SOM Leaders of Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Vietnam expressed their appreciation to the Royal Thai Government for hosting the ACMECS Senior Officials' Meeting and for the warm hospitality accorded to all participating delegations.

Agenda Item 5 : Adoption of the SOM Chair's Report

21. The Meeting adopted the SOM Chair's Report on 6th October 2009 in Bangkok, Thailand