Consideration and Adoption of the Joint Media Statement

Ninth Ministerial Meeting of the ASEAN-Mekong Basin Development Cooperation (AMBDC),
27 August 2007, Manila, Philippines
1. The 9th Ministerial Meeting on the ASEAN-Mekong Basin Development Cooperation (AMBDC) was held in Manila, the Philippines, on 27 August 2007. The Meeting was chaired by H.E. Peter B. Favila, Secretary, Department of Trade and Industry, the Philippines. The Meeting was attended by representatives from ASEAN Member Countries and PR China. Representatives from Japan and Asian Development Bank (ADB) also attended the Meeting as observers.

2. The Ministers took note of the progress made in the implementation of projects. As at 10 August 2007, there are 45 projects, at various stages of implementation. 14 projects still require funding worth US$44 million.

3. The Meeting also noted the progress of activities under the Working Group on the Singapore-Kunming Rail Link (SKRL). The proposed SKRL will link eight of the AMBDC countries and would roughly cost US$2 billion (at year 2006 estimates) for the 550 km of ‘missing links’ to be constructed. At present the missing links are at various stages of development. The circular rail link connecting the capital cities will be approximately 7,000 km in length. The Meeting noted that the 9th Special Working Group Meeting on SKRL will be held in October 2007 in Singapore. Ministers welcomed the proposed convening of a high profile seminar to attract potential investors to the SKRL project.

4. The AMBDC is one of the Ministerial mechanisms in ASEAN. Now that the AMBDC Ministerial Meetings are held back-to-back with the ASEAN Economic Ministers Meetings, the Meeting exchanged views on ways to synchronise the activities of the AMBDC with the building of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC). In this regard, the Meeting agreed to recommend to the 13th ASEAN Summit in November 2007 in Singapore for a study to be conducted that will not only support the regional economic integration efforts of the AEC, but also enhance ASEAN-China relations and improve the effectiveness of the AMBDC mechanism. The study is expected to be completed before the next AMBDC Ministerial Meeting in August 2008 in Singapore.
LIST OF MINISTERS:

1. Dato Paduka Lim Jock Hoi  
   Permanent Secretary  
   Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade  
   Brunei Darussalam  

2. H.E. Hou Taing Eng  
   Undersecretary of State  
   Ministry of Planning  
   Cambodia  

3. H.E. Du Ying  
   Vice Minister of National Development and Reform Commission  
   PR China  

4. Mr. Herry Soetanto  
   Director General  
   Ministry of Trade  
   Indonesia  

5. Mr. Bounsom Phommavihane  
   Director General  
   Ministry of Industry and Commerce  
   Lao PDR  

6. Dr. Rebecca Fatima Sta Maria  
   Deputy Secretary General (Trade)  
   Ministry of International Trade and Industry  
   Malaysia  

7. H.E. U Soe Tha  
   Minister for National Planning and Economic Development,  
   Myanmar  

8. H.E. Peter B. Favila  
   Secretary of the Trade and Industry  
   Philippines  

9. Ms. Sulaimah Mahmood  
   Director (ASEAN)  
   Ministry of Trade and Industry  
   Singapore  

10. H.E. Mr. Krirk-Krai Jirapaet  
    Minister of Commerce  
    Thailand  

11. H.E. Dr. Nguyen Bich Dat  
    Vice Minister of Planning and Investment  
    Vietnam  

12. H.E. Ong Keng Yong  
    Secretary-General of ASEAN  

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