



**The 15th Ministerial Meeting of the
ASEAN-Mekong Basin Development Cooperation (AMBDC)
21 August 2013, Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam**

Joint Media Statement

1. The purpose of the ASEAN-Mekong Basin Development Cooperation (AMBDC) is to enhance the economically sound and sustainable development of the Mekong Basin through the establishment of economic partnerships and linkages between the riparian and non-riparian members of the Cooperation. Its members include all ASEAN Member States and the People's Republic of China.
2. The 15th Ministerial Meeting on the ASEAN-Mekong Basin Development Cooperation was held in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam on 21 August 2013.
3. At the Meeting, the Ministers took note of the progress made in the implementation of AMBDC projects. As of August 2013, the aggregated estimated cost of the 22 projects (excluding the Singapore-Kunming Rail Link Project) amounts to about US\$276.7 million. Of this amount, the funding expected from donors amount to US\$274.2. Recognising that financing of activities remain a priority and challenge for the countries, the Ministers discussed opportunities to further strengthen cooperation among countries and stakeholders to benefit development of the region.
4. The Ministers also noted the progress of activities from the various countries on the Singapore-Kunming Rail Link (SKRL) Project and that further developments on the SKRL will be reported at the 15th Meeting of the Special Working Group on the SKRL scheduled in October 2013 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
5. As one of the many key actions under the Master Plan for ASEAN Connectivity, the Ministers noted the strengthening of coordination between the Special Working Group on the SKRL with the ASEAN Connectivity Coordinating Committee (ACCC).
6. Apart from infrastructure, the Ministers have placed renewed interest on the other areas of cooperation set in the AMBDC Basic Framework, such as human resource development and capacity building. The Ministers highlighted that providing technical assistance and training for the CLMV countries in establishing and operating their segments of the SKRL must continue and be appraised regularly.
7. The Ministers noted the progress at the country initiatives and the importance of sustaining efforts at the national level for the region's benefit. For the remaining years leading up to the creation of an ASEAN Community by 2015, the AMBDC will need to set priorities in identified areas and concerns under the cooperation. The Ministers recognised that the issue of implementation has become bigger and more complex and will require steps to rationalise and prioritise the agenda of the AMBDC.

8. In this regard, the Ministers tasked the Steering Committee to ensure effective implementation of the activities under this cooperation in coordination with the countries, and with the support of the ASEAN Secretariat.

9. The Ministers agreed that Myanmar will chair the AMBDC for the period 2014 and will host the 16th AMBDC Ministerial Meeting.

10. In closing, the Ministers expressed sincere thanks and appreciation to Brunei Darussalam for the warm hospitality and excellent arrangements for the meeting.



LIST OF MINISTERS

1. **The Hon. Pehin Dato Lim Jock Seng**, Second Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Brunei Darussalam
2. **H.E. Cham Prasidh**, Senior Minister and Minister of Commerce, Cambodia
3. **H.E. Du Ying**, Vice Chairman, National Development and Reform Commission, People's Republic of China
4. **H.E. Gita Wirjawan**, Minister of Trade, Indonesia (represented by Mr. Iman Pambagyo, Director General of International Trade Cooperation, Ministry of Trade, Indonesia)
5. **H.E. Nam Viyaketh**, Minister of Industry and Commerce, Lao PDR
6. **H.E. Dr. Kan Zaw**, Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development, Myanmar
7. **H.E. Gregory L. Domingo**, Secretary, Department of Trade and Industry, the Philippines (represented by Mr. Angelo S.M. Benedictos, Director, Bureau of International Trade Relations, Department of Trade and Industry, the Philippines)
8. **H.E. Lim Hng Kiang**, Minister for Trade and Industry, Singapore (represented by Mr. Lee Ark Boon, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Trade and Industry, Singapore)
9. **H.E. Niwattumrong Boonsongpaisan**, Minister of Commerce, Thailand (represented by Mr. Somkiat Triratpan, Deputy Director-General of the Department of Trade Negotiations, Ministry of Commerce, Thailand)
10. **H.E. Dao Quang Thu**, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Planning and Investment, Viet Nam (represented by Mr. Tran Duy Dong, Ministry of Planning and Investment, Viet Nam)
11. **H.E. Le Luong Minh**, Secretary-General of ASEAN