

**Consideration and Adoption of the
Joint Media Statement**



**Ninth Ministerial Meeting of the ASEAN-Mekong Basin
Development Cooperation (AMBDC),
27 August 2007, Manila, Philippines**



**THE 9TH MINISTERIAL MEETING OF
THE ASEAN-MEKONG BASIN DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION
(AMBDC)
27 August 2007, Manila, Philippines**

Joint Media Statement

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

