

as of 30 June 2003

PHNOM PENH ROAD MAP
Phnom Penh, Kingdom of Cambodia
20 June 2003

We, the Ministers of the six member countries of Mekong-Ganga Cooperation (MGC), participating in the Third Ministerial Meeting on MGC, held in Phnom Penh, Kingdom of Cambodia on 20 June 2003:

1. Recognising that there exists a great deal of potential for cooperation among countries of the Mekong and Ganga basin;
2. Noting that the Vientiane Declaration on Mekong-Ganga Cooperation adopted at the Inaugural Ministerial Meeting in November 2000 sets out a vision for developing closer relations and better understanding among member countries and identifies four priority areas for cooperation, namely tourism, culture, education and transportation and communication;
3. Recognising that the Hanoi Programme of Action for Mekong-Ganga Cooperation adopted by the Second Ministerial Meeting in July 2001, provides specific action to be taken in the four priority areas in a six-year time frame from July 2001 to July 2007;
4. Resolving to combine our efforts to accomplish our objectives;

We do hereby adopt the following plan of action to be known as the Phnom Penh Road Map:

Tourism

1. We resolve to undertake the following measures to ensure the implementation of the Vientiane Declaration on Mekong-Ganga Cooperation and the Hanoi Programme of Action for Mekong-Ganga Tourism Cooperation:
 - Convene a meeting of Tourism Ministers of MGC in New Delhi in 2004;
 - Participate in ASEAN Tourism Forum (ATF) to be held in Vientiane in 2004;
 - Hold a Tourism Expert Working Group Meeting as early as

possible and reports its finding to the Senior officials' Meeting;

- Develop a combined tourist destination linking more than one member country;
- Explore the possibility of relaxation of traffic rights and visa formalities;

Culture

2. With regards to our efforts to preserve, promote and exchange shared culture and traditional values, we resolve to undertake the following measures:

- Welcome the commitment of US\$ one million by India for Traditional Textile Museum in Cambodia;
- Reaffirm commitment to the implementation of the Hanoi Programme of Action for Cultural Cooperation;
- Organize a meeting of Textile experts in New Delhi;
- Develop a project profile for cultural cooperation;
- Hold a cultural festival in Siem Reap, Cambodia, with the participation of Cambodia and Indian music and dances;
- Participate in the MGC Cultural Festival in Hue in 2004 and in the joint cultural performance for the 10th ASEAN Summit to be held in Vientiane in 2004;
- Hold a meeting of Expert Working Group on Culture as early as possible and reports its finding to the Senior Officials' Meeting;

Education

3. We resolve to undertake the following measures in focusing on the promotion of closer interaction in the areas of distant education, information technology, education planning, research and language training:

- Increase MGC Cooperation Scholarship to train in different disciplines;
- Formulate the training the trainers programme for MGC in information technology;
- Create a MGC website and information news letters,
- Ensure the effective implementation of HPA for MGC

- Educational Cooperation;
- Hold a meeting of Expert Working Group on Education as early as possible and report its finding to the Senior Officials' Meeting;

Transport and Communication

4. Noting that cooperation in the area of transport and communication is key to facilitate the movement of people and goods among MGC member countries and is conducive to trade and socio-economic development, we agree to undertake the following measures:

- Support the trilateral road linkages among India-Myanmar-Thailand and consider further expansion to other member countries;
- Set up a team to study feasibility on rail linkage from New Delhi to Hanoi in Vietnam and to find out missing links;
- Ensure the implementation of HPA for MGC Transport and Communication;
- Hold a meeting of Expert Working Group on Transport and Communication as early as possible and report its finding to the Senior Officials' Meeting;

Other areas

5. Observing that apart from four priority areas, focus should not be limited to explore other areas, we bear in mind to undertake the following measures:

- Developing affordable medicine for tropical diseases and provide to help MGC member countries;
- Encourage cooperation and joint venture in pharmaceutical and harmonization of drug standards;
- Promote public relations and disseminate information to media about MGC;
- Explore possible new areas for cooperation.

Funding

6. As the financial resources are also key to effective implementation of cooperation projects, we consider to undertake the following measures:

- Call for support from donor countries, agencies and international organizations;
- Explore possibility of 2+1 cooperation formula whereby two MGC countries will join hands together with donor country or organization;
- Consider possibility of each member country contributing to the seed fund of MGC, in addition to India's donation of US\$ 100,000 to the fund;
- Hold seminars with potential donors with a view to fund raising for agreed projects;
- Encourage business sector to involve actively in MGC projects;
- Start with highly feasible projects to help build concrete foundation for further expansions;
- Study to share the strategy of GMS (Greater Mekong Sub-region) development programmes;
- Study to move forward in line with 64 projects of ASEAN Integration Work Plan;

Institutional Arrangement

7. To undertake concrete steps to translate potentials into tangible results, we resolve to undertake the following measures;

- Strengthen the leading role of chairing country to expand cooperation with sectoral expert working groups;
- Fix the schedule for Ministerial Meetings and annual Senior Officials' Meeting;
- Hold sectoral expert working groups meetings to discuss and come out with list of deliverable flagship projects which can be submitted to Senior Officials' Meetings;
- Activate Senior Officials' Meetings to meet before Ministerial Meetings;
- Designate focal point by every member country to facilitate coordination and cooperation;

8. We agree to hold the fourth MGC Ministerial Meeting in India after the Senior Officials' Meeting in Thailand in 2004.

9. We, the Ministers of MGC member countries, pledge to cooperate actively with a view to enhancing cooperation and coordination among member countries.

10. We reaffirm that continued consultation and cooperation among member countries remain vital in implementation of the Hanoi Programme of Action for MGC cooperation.

11. We adopt the Phnom Penh Road Map on this 20th day of June 2003 in Phnom Penh, Kingdom of Cambodia.

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