

Joint Press Statement
Of the Second Foreign Ministers' Meeting of
The Emerald Triangle Cooperation
(Cambodia, Lao PDR and Thailand)

1. *The Second Meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the Emerald Triangle Cooperation (Cambodia, Lao PDR and Thailand), was held on 3rd October 2009 in Siem Reap, Kingdom of Cambodia. The Meeting was chaired by H.E. Mr. **HOR Namhong**, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Kingdom of Cambodia, with the participation of H.E. Dr. **Thongloun Sisoulith**, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, and H.E. Mr. **Kasit Piromya**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand.*

2. *The Meeting reviewed the progress of the Emerald Triangle cooperation since the First Foreign Ministers' Meeting held in 2003 in Pakse (Lao PDR), including the implementation of the Action Plan on Tourism Cooperation in the Emerald Triangle. The Ministers recognized that further action is needed to promote cooperation in the designated geographical parameters of the Triangle.*

3. *The Ministers exchanged views on future cooperation in line with the overall goals expressed in the Paksé Declaration. They also agreed to expand the scope of cooperation to include other important areas such as Agriculture, Infrastructure development, and Trade promotion, with a view to achieve poverty alleviation and*

sustainable economic growth in the designated geographical parameters of the Triangle.

- 4. The Meeting welcomed Thailand's offer to host the First ever Summit of the Emerald Triangle Cooperation next year, in order to pro- actively promote cooperation in this area.*
- 5. The Ministers tasked the senior officials to convene Working Group Meeting as early as possible in order to prepare a Plan of Action on all related areas of cooperation for the mutual benefit. The Plan of Action shall be submitted to the Leaders for their adoption at the forthcoming Summit.*
- 6. The Meeting acknowledged that the active support and participation from the development partners and donor agencies including those in East Asia are crucial for the realization of the Plan of Action of the Emerald Triangle mechanism.*
- 7. The Ministers expressed their confidence that with the strong political commitment and joint efforts, the Emerald Triangle region would be transformed into a region of cooperation and development for the sake of a better life of the peoples in this area.*

Siem Reap, 3rd October 2009