ASIA COOPERATION DIALOGUE (ACD)

Introduction

The Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) was established in June 2002 in Cha-Am, Thailand, where 18 Asian Foreign Ministers met together for the first time to promote cooperation at a continental level. Its secretariat is in Kuwait City.

The ACD is a continent-wide forum, the first of its kind in Asia. Asia is a global economic powerhouse that supplies the world economy with ever-increasing flows of goods and capital – and boasts vibrant, integrated markets and production hubs. Asia will continue to contribute 60% of world growth. It is undeniable that Asia is now the world's largest hub that injects "fuel" to the global economy to drive new financial cooperation, inclusive growth and sustainable development agenda.

The ACD aims to constitute the missing link in Asia by incorporating every Asian country and building an Asian Community. A key principle is to consolidate Asian strengths and fortify Asia's competitiveness by maximizing the diversity and rich resources evident in Asia. The core values of the ACD are positive thinking; informality; voluntarism; non-institutionalization; openness; respect for diversity; the comfort level of member countries; and the evolving nature of the ACD process.

Membership

Currently, the ACD comprises 35 countries: Afghanistan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Oman, Pakistan, Palestine, Philippines, Qatar, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan, Vietnam.

Pillars of Cooperation

ACD's six pillars of cooperation consist of: (1) Connectivity (2) Science, Technology and Innovation (3) Education and Human Resource Development (4) Food, Energy and Water Security (5) Culture and Tourism, and (6) Promotion of Inclusive Growth and Sustainable Development.

ACD Bodies and Structures

- **Summit**

  So far, two Summits has been held. The first one in Kuwait City, Kuwait, on 15 - 17 October 2012 and the 2nd one in the Kingdom of Thailand in 2016. The 3rd ACD Summit will be hosted by the State of Qatar in 2023.

- **Council**

  As a decision making body, seventeen ACD Ministerial Meetings have taken place in different member states cities.

- **Secretariat**

The Provisional Secretariat is the administrative organ of the Asia Cooperation Dialogue. It functions as the office of administrative coordination and serve as an official channel of communication within ACD and between ACD and other regional and international agencies.

The Secretariat serve as a focal point in preparing and organizing ACD meetings and activities, including provide administrative and technical support, as well as prepare and circulate meeting documents upon request.

The Secretariat was originally established from the ACD Charter by the initiative of HH the Amir of the State of Kuwait to serve as a mechanism for advance development of the organization. The Provisional Secretariat was inaugurated in October 2013 with its Headquarter in Kuwait city, the State of Kuwait.

Iran & ACD

Iran joined ACD on 20 June 2004. Some major ACD events held so far in Iran are:

- Ninth Ministerial Meeting of ACD in Tehran on 7 – 8 November 2010,
- First meeting of the ACD Senior Officials on Cultural Cooperation in Tehran on 9-10 May 2011,
- 3rd ACD Senior Officials Meeting on Cultural Cooperation Tehran, on 7-8 May 2013,
- 1st Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) Ministerial Meeting on Tourism in Tabriz on 30 August 2016.

The ACD Blueprint 2021-2030 was negotiated and finalized under the chairmanship of the Islamic Republic of Iran in 2021.
Iran is supposed to assume chairmanship of the Asia Cooperation Dialogue for the year 2023-2024 soon.

CCC-ACD
The Cultural Coordination Center-ACD was established on 8 May 2013 in Tehran, with the aim of enhancing cultural ties and ensuring the implementation of cultural initiatives in ACD. Further information is available in https://ircccacd.com/about/

2nd ACD Summit, 2016, Thailand

http://www.acd-dialogue.org/