MB290

VIENTIANE DECLARATION
ON MEKONG-GANGA COOPERATION

We, the Ministers of Cambodia, India, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam, met in Vientiane on November 10, 2000 to discuss the Mekong-Ganga Cooperation initiatives announced by the foreign ministers of the six countries in Bangkok on July 28, 2000 on the occasion of the AMM/PMC Meeting.

IN KEEPING with the spirit of existing framework of cooperation in the region,

DETERMINED to promote common heritage through greater cooperation,

INSPIRED by a common desire to develop closer relations and better understanding among the six countries to enhance friendship, solidarity, and cooperation,

DESIROUS of promoting the mutual benefit of the people of Cambodia, India, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam through multi-faceted coperation in the areas of Tourism, Culture, Education and Communication,

INSPIRED by a common desire to strengthen friendship and mutual understanding under the Mekong-Ganga Cooperation (MGC),and

Having considered the concept paper prepared by our Senior Officials in their meeting during 8-9 November 2000

Do hereby declare that :

We shall endeavour to strenghten our cooperation aimed at achieving the objectives of the cooperation framework by encouraging and facilitating the implementation of the following activities in accordance with the concept paper annexed to this Declaration.

I. TOURISM

1. Conduct strategic studies for joint marketing and convening of top level tourism marketing missions to promote the MGC;

2. Launch the Mekong-Ganga Tourism Investment Guide;

3. Establish networks among tourism training institutions, and conduct seminars in tourism promotion;

4. Facilitate the travel of people in the region;

5. Arrange and facilitate easy access to necessary information about existing cultural heritage sites in MGC countries;

6. Expand multi-modal communication and transportation linkages among member countries to encourage travel and tourism in the region;

7. Promote package tours to famous cultural, religious and eco-tourism sites of the MGC countries.

II. CULTURE

1. Promote joint research in the dance, music and theatrical forms and traditions of the MGC countries;

2. Organise round tables for journalists, writers and experts in literature, performing arts, women's empowerment, health, nutritution, etc..for the service of tourism;

3. Exert common efforts to expand the export market for the handicrafts and traditional textiles of the MGC countries;

4. Set up a clear programme of conservation and preservation of old manuscripts amongst the member countries;

5. Conserve, preserve, and protect heritage sites and artefacts in MGC countries;

6. Exert joint efforts to identify and conduct campaigns for the inclusion of important heritage sites in the region in UNESCO World Heritage list;

7. Set up information network and exchange in performing arts, traditional rites, rituals, and festivals among the member countries.

III Education

1. Promote the exchange students and faculty between recognised technology and management institutions in MGC countries and provide MGC scholarships for outstanding students in specific subjects;

2. Encourage the establishment of networking and twinning arrangements among MGC universities; particularly in the areas of social sciences, humanities, engineering and area studies;

3. Participate in book fairs in member countries on a commercial basis;

4. Promote programmes in specific subjects including for the teaching of the languages of MGC countries;

5. Translate the classics of the MGC countries into the languages of the MGC countries in cooperation with the existing ASEAN programme;

6. Seek financial support for research work on economic, historical and cultural themes of relevance of tourism to two or more MGC countries.

IV TRANSPORT & COMMUNICATION

1. Deploy efforts to develop transportation networks in the region in particular the EAST-WEST Corridor project and the Trans-Asian Highway;

2. Strengthen cooperation in the development of IT infrastructures and networks;

3. Promote cooperation in air services and linkages in the region.

For the Government of
the Kingdom of Cambodia

VENG SEREYVUTH
Minister of Tourism

For the Government of India

JASWANT SINGH
Minister of External Affairs

For the Government of
the Lao People's Democratic Republic

SOMSAVAT LENGSAVAD
Deputy Prime Minister
Minister of Foreign Affairs

For the Government of
the Union of Myanmar

MAJ-GENERAL SAW LWIN
Minister for Hotels and Tourism

For the Government of
the Kingdom of Thailand

ADISAI BODHARAMIK
Minister to the Prime Minister's Office

For the Government of
the Socialist Republic of Vietnam

NGUYEN DY NIEN
Minister of Foreign Affairs

BỘ NGOẠI GIAO

Số : 01 /LPQT

SAO Y BẢN CHÍNH
(Để thực hiện)

Hà Nội, ngày 30 tháng 01 năm 2001

TL. BỘ TRƯỞNG BỘ NGOẠI GIAO
KT. Vụ trưởng Vụ Luật pháp và Điều ước quốc tế
Phó Vụ trưởng

Trần Duy Thi

Nơi nhận :

- Văn phòng Chính phủ (để báo cáo),
- Bộ Văn hoá - thông tin,
- Bộ Giáo dục và Đào tạo,
- Bộ Giao thông vận tải,
- Bộ Tài chính,
- Bộ Công an,
- Tổng cục Du lịch,
- Tổng cục Bưu điện,
- Cục Hàng không dân dụng Việt Nam,
- Đại sứ quán Việt Nam tại Ấn Độ,
- Đại sứ quán Việt Nam tại Campuchia,
- Đại sứ quán Việt Nam tại Lào,
- Đại sứ quán Việt Nam tại Thái Lan,
- Đại sứ quán Việt Nam tại Mianma,
- Vụ Châu Á 2,
- Vụ LPQT,
- Lưu trữ.

Tuyên bố Viên chăn về hợp tác sông Mê kông - sông Hằng có hiệu lực từ ngày 10/11/2000.