



**THE 10TH MINISTERIAL MEETING OF
THE ASEAN-MEKONG BASIN DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION (AMBDC)
29 August 2008, Singapore**

Joint Media Statement

1. The 10th Ministerial Meeting on the ASEAN-Mekong Basin Development Cooperation (AMBDC) was held in Singapore, on 29 August 2008. The Meeting was chaired by Mr. Lim Hng Kiang, Minister for Trade and Industry, Singapore. The Meeting was attended by delegates from the ASEAN Member States and the People's Republic of China.
2. The Ministers took note of the progress made in the implementation of AMBDC projects. As at 22 August 2008, there are 45 projects at various stages of implementation. 13 projects still require funding worth US\$26.5 million.
3. The Ministers also noted the progress of activities from the various countries on the progress of the Singapore-Kunming Rail Link (SKRL) Project. The proposed SKRL will link eight of the AMBDC countries and is estimated to cost about US\$2 billion (at year 2006 estimation) 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 10th Special Working Group (SWG) Meeting on SKRL will be held on 22 November 2008 in Putrajaya, Malaysia. The Ministers welcomed the opportunity of convening the SKRL Conference and Exhibition to publicize, promote and attract investments for the SKRL in



early 2009. The Ministers expressed appreciation to Malaysia for accepting the invitation to be the permanent chair of the Special Working Group on SKRL.

4. The Ministers recognized that AMBDC process needs to be realigned and synchronised with the building of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC). The Ministers noted that the AMBDC could serve as an effective forum for narrowing the development gap in ASEAN, particularly in accelerating the economic development of Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Viet Nam. In this regard, the Ministers welcomed the preliminary findings of the Study to Realign the AMBDC process with the AEC and looked forward to the final recommendations of the Study. The Ministers also expressed appreciation to the Asian Development Bank for sponsoring the Study.

