

Joint Communique of the 5th Ministers' Forum in the Asia-Pacific Region

We, the Ministers and the representatives attending the Asia-Pacific Ministers' Forum on Infrastructure held on 25th January 2005, in Putrajaya, Malaysia hereby resolved that:

Realizing the need for integrating social, economic and environmental strategies to achieve sustainable development,

Convinced that there is a need to balance between infrastructure development and the environment,

Recognizing that environmental degradation affects the world as a whole,

Noting that member countries are at varying levels of development and capacities to implement environmental protection measures, that there is a need to work collectively to share expertise, and

Realizing that in light of the recent tsunami tragedy that does not recognize national borders, we are commonly bound to work together in facing environmental catastrophe.

Affirm as follows:

1. Infrastructure development needs to be implemented with the following considerations:
 - a. Sharing of knowledge, expertise and experience for capacity building and best practices in environmental protection,
 - b. Adopting and promoting development strategies that ensure the safety of life and property in harmony with the environment for future sustainability,
 - c. Defining the environment holistically to include society, economy and nature in the formulation of environmental policies,
 - d. Adopting a scientific and technological approach in solving environmental concerns with a view to saving non-renewable resources,
 - e. Inculcating a culture of excellence in environmental practices from the highest level of government, providing guidance

for the population towards the creation of a recycling oriented society,

- f. Improving environmental awareness and sensitivity amongst users, providers and other stakeholders, and
 - g. Leveraging the existing international agencies to seek and manage funds for cross border environmental issues.
2. Invite countries in the Asia-Pacific Region to invest in mitigating measures to tackle environmental issues particularly water and air pollution.
 3. Share information and further develop early warning systems on natural disasters such as earthquakes and tsunamis.
 4. Agree that the Ministers' Forum on Infrastructure Development in the Asia-Pacific Region shall continue to provide a platform for future cooperation.

In addition,

We, the delegates of the 5th Ministers' Forum on Infrastructure Development in the Asia-Pacific Region express our deepest sympathies to the families of the victims of the tsunami disaster in the Indian Ocean region. We hope through this Forum, greater awareness to balance infrastructure development and environmental protection will result in a more sustainable regional development.

Thank you.

Putrajaya International Convention Centre,
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
25th January 2005