



**Joint Ministerial Statement of  
the Second BIMSTEC Ministers on Energy's Meeting  
Bangkok, Thailand  
05 March 2010**

1. We, the Ministers responsible for Energy/the Heads of delegation of the Member States of the BIMSTEC region, namely, the People's Republic of Bangladesh, the Kingdom of Bhutan, the Republic of India, the Union of Myanmar, the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal, the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and the Kingdom of Thailand, held our Second BIMSTEC Ministers on Energy's Meeting on 5 March 2010 in Bangkok, Thailand. The Meeting was chaired by the Minister of Energy of the Kingdom of Thailand.
2. We, greatly appreciated the joint effort and progress made in implementing relevant programs as decided by the First BIMSTEC Energy Ministerial Meeting held in India in 2005, the result of which, in particular, would be the establishment of BIMSTEC Energy Centre.
3. We took note of the progress on establishment of BIMSTEC Grid Interconnection program, as tasked, under the First BIMSTEC Action Plan, by the BIMSTEC Task Force on Trans Power Exchange and Development Project, and reaffirmed our intention to complete a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to be a framework for future trade in electricity as well as commencement of BIMSTEC Grid Interconnection Master Plan Study aiming to provide technically and economically viable power interconnection across the BIMSTEC region.
4. We recognized the impacts oil-price volatility, over-dependence on fossil fuels, and unsustainable energy consumption patterns have on climate and our region's economies, and people's well being. Hence, we agreed to further pursue closer cooperation by taking necessary actions to enhance energy security and foster sustainable economic growth in our region, such as development and introduction of clean technologies for energy, supporting new innovations for energy efficiency and energy saving, encourage greater reliance on renewable energy and promotion of non-conventional energy, and more intra-BIMSTEC Energy Trade and Investment.
5. We further agreed to accelerate development of new hydro-power projects, interconnection of electricity and natural gas grids, implementation of viable renewable energy projects, and sharing of experiences, knowledge and information on energy efficiency programs that will also be beneficial to the environments.

6. We agreed to promote natural gas utilization as clean energy for the region in order to lessen dependence on imported oil; and also noted that import and export of natural gas among BIMSTEC Member States can be an important element of our energy security policy. We therefore encourage more cooperation among the Member States to promote governmental and private investment in natural gas infrastructure.

7. Noting that BIMSTEC is geographically full of renewable energy potential, such as hydro-power, biomass, biogas, wind, and solar; We agreed to work on new and renewable energy cooperation as a viable option to sustainable economic development. In this connection, we welcomed Thailand's initiatives to become the regional hub for bio-fuels, namely ethanol and biodiesel, and her efforts to promote trade and technical assistance on bio-fuels among BIMSTEC Member States.

8. We reiterated our commitment to establishing the BIMSTEC Energy Centre (BEC) in India soon so that it could serve Member States on energy information sharing, knowledge and technology transfer, and programme and project coordination to promote development of sustainable energy use within the BIMSTEC region. We strongly believe that the BIMSTEC Energy Centre (BEC) would be beneficial to all BIMSTEC Member States in the areas of sustainable development and use of energy resources through regional collaboration, grid inter-connection and infrastructure, renewable energy, energy efficiency, energy trade and investment, capacity building, technology transfer and other energy related issues. Therefore, we would expedite the establishment of BIMSTEC Energy Centre (BEC), and the setting up of BEC operational requirements, budgeting, procedures on appointment of Executive Director and other relevant issues.

9. We recognized the need to follow up regularly on progress of energy-sector-related programmes in BIMSTEC, and decided that our Senior Officials on Energy would meet at least once a year. We further agreed to have Ministerial-level Meeting every two years.

10. We recognized the importance of taking advantage of energy sector studies already conducted for BIMSTEC and neighboring regions as inputs for future energy collaboration under BIMSTEC.

11. We expressed appreciation to the Government and the People of the Kingdom of Thailand for hosting of, and effective arrangement for the Second BIMSTEC Ministers on Energy's Meeting in Bangkok. We also appreciated the hard works and efforts of our Senior Officials' on Energy in preparation for our successful Meeting and endorsed their report.

12. We thanked the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal for agreeing to host the Third BIMSTEC Ministers on Energy's Meeting in Kathmandu in 2012.

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