

**RECORD OF THE**  
**FIRST ASIA MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON TIGER CONSERVATION (1<sup>st</sup> AMC)**

**29 January, 2010**

**Hua Hin, Prachuap Khiri Khan, Thailand**

**INTRODUCTION**

1. The First Asia Ministerial Conference on Tiger Conservation (1<sup>st</sup> AMC) was held on 29 January 2010, in Hua Hin, Prachuap Khiri Khan, Thailand.
  
2. The AMC was attended by H.E. Dr. Hasan Mahmud MP., State Minister, Ministry of Environment and Forests, Bangladesh; H.E. Dr. Pema Gyamtsho, Minister, Ministry of Agriculture, Thimpu, Bhutan; Mr. Huot Bunnary, Deputy Secretary General, Administration for Nature Conservation and Protection, Cambodia; Mr. Zhuo Rongsheng, Chief Engineer (Leading Member), State Forestry Administration of China (SFA), China; Mr. S. P. Yadav, Deputy Inspector General, Ministry of Environment and Forestry, India; Dr. Harry Santoso, Director, Biodiversity Conservation, Ministry of Forestry, Indonesia; H.E. Dr. Ty Phommasack, Vice Minister, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Lao PDR; H.E. Tan Sri Datuk Seri Panglima Joseph Kurup, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Malaysia; H.E. Brigadier General Aung Thein, Ambassador, Embassy of the Union of Myanmar, Myanmar; H.E. Deepak Bohara, Minister for Forests and Soil Conservation, Government of Nepal; Mr. Konstantin Totskiy, Deputy Head, Federal Supervisory Natural Resources Management Service, Russia; H.E. Suwit Khunkitti, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Thailand; Dr. Dong The Nguyen, Deputy Director General, Vietnam Environment, Vietnam; Senior Officials from 13 Tiger Range Countries (TRCs); their delegates; and participants from the AMC and Global Tiger Initiative (GTI) Secretariats and other organizations. The list of Senior Officials, delegates, and participants appears as ANNEX 1.

**OPENING CEREMONY**

**Welcome Remarks**

3. **Dr. Saksit Tridech**, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment, Thailand, and Chairman of the Senior Officials Meeting, welcomed the Ministers, Senior Officials, delegates, and all participants to the 1<sup>st</sup> AMC and to Hua Hin, Thailand. He noted that this meeting, in cooperation with GTI, is a key milestone to the Tiger Summit in Vladivostok in September 2010. He outlined the program of the Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) on 27-28 January 2010. He said that the 1<sup>st</sup> AMC was a good opportunity to bring excellent support for safeguarding tigers.

**Opening Remarks**

4. **His Excellency Abhisit Vejjajiva**, the Prime Minister of Thailand, in a video message, welcomed the Meeting on behalf of the people and government of Thailand. He noted the 1<sup>st</sup> AMC as a significant milestone leading to the Tiger Summit. He pointed out that if we treat nature as limitless, when it is not, people and tigers will suffer the loss of ecosystem services. He outlined Thailand's goals for tiger conservation. He urged the TRCs to make bold and unprecedented commitments to conserve tigers and to take the Pattaya Manifesto and the Kathmandu Recommendations to the political level. He challenged to be remembered as champions of wildlife not destroyers. His opening address is attached as ANNEX 2.

5. **His Excellency Minister Suwit Khunkitti**, Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment (MONRE), Thailand, opened the meeting by welcoming and thanking Ministers, Senior Officials, and delegates for joining this historic, first ever Asian Ministerial Conference on Tiger Conservation. He noted that the world is watching and expecting action to avert the crisis of the tiger's decline toward extinction, so the TRCs should take responsibility to accelerate actions. It is important to solidify at the political level the Pattaya Manifesto and the Kathmandu Recommendations to meet the challenge to scale-up efforts in order to double tiger numbers by 2022. He also noted the need to scale-up to an ASIA-WEN. He asked for cooperation in Thailand's Regional Research and Training Center to build capacity and trans-boundary cooperation and agreements. He noted that after AMC, it is time to go straight to work so initiatives can be endorsed at the Tiger Summit, and proposed taking up a Ministers Council for establishment at the by the Summit. He concluded by saying that saving tigers means saving the Earth. His opening address is attached as ANNEX 3.

6. In a video presentation, **Mr. Robert B. Zoellick**, President, The World Bank Group, thanked the Royal Government of Thailand for hosting the First Asian Ministerial Conference on tiger Conservation. He noted that the Global Tiger Initiative had made progress, but the tiger crisis continues on the ground. He pointed out that the GTI and the crisis is not only about wild tigers; it is a crisis of the Asian biodiversity that the tiger represents, and he stressed the importance of maintaining biodiversity to sustainable development. To address the crisis, he noted that the Kathmandu Recommendations need to be implemented, and recognized the need to mobilize donors to support the efforts of the TRCs. His opening address is attached as ANNEX 4.

7. **Mr. Vinod Thomas**, Director General, Independent Evaluation Group, World Bank Group, thanked the Royal Government of Thailand, especially Prime Minister Abhijit Vejjajiva, Minister of Natural Resources and the Environment H.E. Suwit Khunkitti, Permanent Secretary Dr. Saksit Tridech, and the distinguished TRC Ministers and delegates, and members of the international community, noting this is an unusual moment. He commended World Bank President Robert Zoellick for his commitment to sustainable development and noted that the lessons of the past are being taken to heart and are reflected in new directions at the Bank and other organizations. He said there is recognition that eco-friendly is no longer just good ecology; it is good economics as well. He noted the 1<sup>st</sup> AMC is the place from which TRCs and their international partners must begin to stem the decline in tiger population before the Tiger Summit in September in Vladivostok, with a Ministerial Council to monitor results. Because of

the urgency of the tiger crisis, he urged that the Hua Hin Declarations be bold and visionary, ones that inspire us to lift the game. His opening address is attached as ANNEX 5.

8. Mr. John Sellar of the CITES Secretariat, read a message from **Mr. Willem Wijnstekers**, Secretary-General of the CITES Secretariat. He expressed his thanks to H.E. Minister Suwit Khunkitti for hosting the 1<sup>st</sup> AMC. He noted that a new International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime was formed in November 2009 to enhance law enforcement capacity at all levels. He encouraged TRCs to come to CoP15 in Doha, Qatar, with draft decisions that could be adopted or consensus on ways in which CITES may offer assistance in addressing the threats facing tigers. Mr. Wijnstekers' message appears as ANNEX 5.

## **MINISTERIAL MEETING**

### **AGENDA ITEM 1: ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRPERSON**

9. The Meeting unanimously elected H.E. Minister Deepak Bohora, Minister of Forests and Soil Conservation, Government of Nepal, as Vice Chairperson of the Meeting.

### **AGENDA ITEM 2: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

10. The Meeting adopted the Agenda as ANNEX 6.

### **AGENDA ITEM 3: BUSINESS ARRANGEMENTS: DESIGNATION OF THE REPORT DRAFTING COMMITTEE**

11. The Meeting opened in closed session.

12. A Report Drafting Committee composed of the following representatives from TRCs and the AMC Secretariat/GTI was formed to prepare the Report of the Meeting:

Dr. Susan Lumpkin, Chair and Rapporteur

Dr. Igor Chestin, Russia

Mr. Satya Prakash Yadav, India

Dr. Asdaporn Krairapanowd, Thailand

Dr. Rungnapar Pattanavibool, Thailand

Dr. Shant Raj Jnawali, Nepal

Mr. Shiv Raj Bhatta, Nepal

Dr. Kry Masphal, Cambodia

13. The Meeting accepted a proposal to permit one observer from each of 16 organizations to observe the SOM sessions: GTI, Smithsonian Institution, WWF, WCS, CITES Secretaria, DEFRA, National Trust for Nature Conservation-Nepal, FREELAND, TRAFFIC, Wildlife Trust of India, ADB, Save the Tiger Fund, US State Department, US Fish & Wildlife Service, US AID, and ASEAN-WEN

14. **Mr. Bill Schaedla** of WWF recognized the selection of **H.E. Minister Suwit Khunkitti**, MONRE, Thailand, for the 2009 J. Paul Getty Award for conservation for his outstanding leadership in conservation, most especially for his leadership in establishing ASEAN-WEN.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 4: REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SENIOR OFFICIALS MEETING (SOM)**

15. **Dr. Saksit Tridech**, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment, Thailand, and Chairman of the SOM, reported on the outcomes of the SOM held on 27-28 January 2010. The Meeting took note of this Report, which is attached as ANNEX 7.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 5: MINISTERIAL REMARKS**

16. Ministers from each of the 13 TRCs presented remarks on their country's progress and challenges in tiger conservation, and outlined needs from the international community.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 6: WHAT IS THE EMERGING SHAPE OF THE GTI?**

17. **Mr. Keshav Varma**, Global Tiger Initiative, stated that the GTI is evolving under the influence of the TRCs. So far, the GTI has been a platform for partnerships, a mechanism for harvesting knowledge and action planning, and a way to create political will. The key issues facing the new GTI are developing funding from a variety of sources and its own institutional development, including being part of a TRC Council of which the World Bank President is a member. His remarks are summarized as ANNEX 8.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 6: CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF THE HUA HIN DECLARATION**

18. The *Hua Hin Declaration* was considered by the Meeting and, with some amendments, was unanimously adopted. The *Hua Hin Declaration* is attached as ANNEX 9.

19. The meeting of the Ministers from TRCs welcomes the proposal of H.E. Mr. Suwit Khunkitti, Minister of Natural Resources and Environment, Thailand, to form a Ministerial Council. Further discussion and consideration is necessary.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 7: ANNOUNCEMENT OF PREPARATIONS FOR THE TIGER SUMMIT**

20. Mr. Konstantin Totskiy, Russia, reported that Russian Prime Minister Putin issued the governmental decree announcing the Tiger Summit on 9-12 September, 2010, in Vladivostok, and establishing the Organizing Committee chaired by the Minister for Natural Resources and Environment of Russia.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 8: PATH TO THE TIGER SUMMIT**

21. **Mr. Anand Seth**, Global Tiger Initiative, outlined the path from the 1<sup>st</sup> AMC in Hua Hin to the Tiger Summit in Vladivostok. He noted the key challenges, including intensifying actions on all levels, and summarized the serious national, regional, and global actions required over the

next months. He reported on key stops along the way, included a Pre-Summit Partner Dialogue In June 2010. His remarks are summarized as ANNEX 10.

22. TRCs agreed to launch awareness events on tiger conservation simultaneously on July 29, 2010, leading up to the Tiger Summit in September, 2010.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 9: RECORD OF THE FIRST ASIAN MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON TIGER CONSERVATION**

23. **H.E. Minister Suwit Khunkitti** presented the Record of the 1<sup>st</sup> AMC.

#### **CLOSING REMARK**

24. **H.E. Minister Suwit Khunkitti** thanked and congratulated the Ministers and their delegations for their hard work for tiger conservation. He noted good progress on the road toward the Tiger Summit in the Year of the Tiger, and looked forward to the results being finalized by heads of governments at the Summit. He reiterated the priority goals the TRCs pledged. He noted the next task was to gain support for national pledges from the highest levels of government. He thanked the World Bank as co-host of this auspicious event, and the GTI and Save the Tiger Fund for being excellent co-organizers; he also thanked all senior delegates. He then closed the meeting. His closing remark appears as ANNEX 11.