

Moscow Declaration

The 17th Meeting of the Greater Tumen Initiative Consultative Commission
June 29, 2017

We, representatives of the GTI Member States : the People's Republic of China (hereinafter "China"), Mongolia, the Republic of Korea (hereinafter "Korea"), and the Russian Federation (hereinafter "Russia"), on the occasion of the 17th Meeting of the GTI Consultative Commission (CC) in Moscow on June 29, 2017,

Recognizing the strategic importance of regional cooperation for sustainable development and prosperity of Northeast Asia, including the Greater Tumen Region;

Affirming the GTI's role as a member-driven platform for regional cooperation in Northeast Asia;

Noting with satisfaction the substantive development progresses achieved under the auspices of GTI since the 16th CC Meeting;

Appreciating the strong supports provided by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and other GTI partners;

Have reached the following decisions and consensus.

1. Strategic Development

We endorse the GTI Strategic Action Plan for years 2017 through 2020 which will serve as a medium-term planning guide for the activities of the GTI committees and affiliated bodies as well as the joint efforts by the Member States.

We reaffirm our continuous collective commitment to develop GTI into a member-driven regional cooperation platform and to advance the legal transition process of GTI. We acknowledge the progress made so far and direct the National Coordinators (NCs), based on the consensus reached so far, to expedite relevant discussions in order to resolve the existing pending issues.

We acknowledge the importance of the improvement of operational effectiveness of GTI activities and the overall capacity building of GTI.

Hence, we direct the NCs to explore the possibility of establishing a project development/implementation oriented structure or operational arrangement within the Secretariat as well as ways to encourage the activities of the committees and affiliated bodies to be more project-oriented and endorse "Concept Paper on Development of Mechanism for GTI Project Office."

We see that continued strengthening of collaboration with development partners is one of key drivers in implementing the GTI activities. Partnerships with international development organizations would not only create opportunities for funding and co-financing of GTI projects but also bring about "knowledge transfer" necessary for GTI's institutional capacity building as a future international organization.

We encourage the Member States to promote policy coordination, facilities connectivity, unimpeded trade, financial integration and people-to-people bonds with a view to achieving comprehensive regional

connectivity through maximizing the synergy between GTI and the Member States' regional cooperation initiatives, such as "Eurasian Economic Union," "Belt and Road Initiative," "Steppe Road Program," as well as Korea's initiatives for regional economic cooperation.

2. Priority Sectors

We appreciate the substantial progress and outcomes resulted from the projects implemented by the GTI, and agree that the GTI shall commit its increased collaborative efforts on the priority sectors to continue its substantial contributions promoting common prosperity in NEA.

Transport

We reiterate the significance of development of transport as a priority sector under the GTI framework. Besides the development of transport and infrastructure projects (inland and sea ports, railway and road networks, logistic hubs) due efforts should be put into the promotion of the intermodal transit transportation with particular attention to the harmonization and facilitation of the procedures, standards and requirements at the border crossing points for the movement of people and goods. We agree to further promote comprehensive connectivity and build economic corridors based on the transport corridors. We will strive to improve investment climate, promote public-private partnerships and enhance government capacity.

Trade and Investment

We appreciate the accomplishments made by the newly inaugurated Trade and Investment Committee (TIC) and Customs Sub-Committee (CSC) in setting their cooperation plans, and endorse the Roadmap for Trade and Investment Cooperation (2017-2020) which will be the guideline to deepen our future cooperation in trade and investment sector for regional development and prosperity. We emphasize the importance of eliminating cross-border barriers and improving trade and investment environment in NEA, and recognize the outcome of the 5th Trade Facilitation Capacity Building Program of the Korea Customs Service (October 2016) in expanding our common understanding on relevant fields. We acknowledge the progress of project "AEO Cooperation Scheme among Customs Administration" and "Workshop on Cross-Border Trade Facilitation and Single Window Implementation in NEA (April, 2017)", and endorse the new projects: 1) "GTI Trade and Investment Cooperation Roundtable Meeting" and 2) "Study on the Soft Environment of Regional Supply Chain Connectivity."

In achieving the objectives of facilitating trade and investment in NEA, business-to-government exchange is essential where GTI should play an increasingly important role. We encourage the TIC to increase its effort in facilitating both business-to-government and business-to-business exchange through its different platforms including the GTI International Trade and Investment EXPO and the NEA National Chambers Association.

Tourism

We recognize the unique attributes and opportunities for tourism development in the region and stress the need for possible projects including multi-destination tourism (MDT) products and potential MDT route development which could utilize the results of the transport pilot testing project. As visa processing remains a challenge, attention should be drawn to streamlining and facilitation of procedures for tourist documentation processing.

Energy

We appreciate the work done by the GTI Energy Board under the Project on Research on Regional Industrial Energy Efficiency Cooperation in consolidating the Member States' national reports on energy sector policies. We expect finalization of national reports within the third quarter of 2017 and that, based on findings from the reports which contain in-depth analysis of national policies and strategies, members

will continue their efforts in identifying potential areas of commercial cooperation and initial tangible results are achieved in the near future.

Environment

We stress the importance of GTI cooperation in environmental protection and sustainable development. We acknowledge that further dialogue and elaborations are needed to determine the mutually beneficial areas of cooperation. It is seen that past successful track record in environment sector should serve as a good reference point for such elaborations. The ongoing research project of “GTI Environmental Cooperation Strategy” is expected to lay the ground for future directions for environmental cooperation.

Agriculture

We appreciate the latest progress made by the Agriculture Committee and endorse the GTI Agriculture Strategic Action Plan (SAP) for 2016-2020. We highlight the SAP focus areas as being well defined and emphasize on cooperation in integration of three-tiers of industry, transboundary disease control and technology transfer, promoting elaborations and efforts on facilitating flow of agricultural goods between producers and users of agricultural products and raw materials at the local and provincial-level based on the diverse background of agricultural production within the region.

We encourage promoting innovative methods for sustainable agriculture in collaboration with various technologies and financial modalities to further explore new directions of cooperation in agriculture development.

3. Partnership Development

We highly value the involvement of the NEA local governments, financial institutions, research institutions, and other international organizations in the GTI activities for regional cooperation and development. We acknowledge the significant progress on the GTI's partnership buildings.

We welcome the endorsement of Gangwon Declaration. We envision the further enhancement of coordination and exchanges with NEA local governments to build regional synergy for prosperity. In this regard, we reiterate the need for close collaboration with GTI sectoral boards and committees. We stress the importance of transportation infrastructure and logistics for the regional connectivity and applaud the LSC in implementing the first Pilot Route Testing Project.

We appreciate the NEA EXIM Banks Association for its contribution as a more efficient resource mobilization mechanism to implement GTI projects. We welcome the signing of “Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation for the Financing of Specialized Grain Terminal in Zarubino Port Project” and anticipate stronger resource-mobilized financial supports toward infrastructure development in the region.

We also appreciate the research outputs from members of the GTI Research Institutions Network (RIN) in 2016 and advise the RIN to continue to serve as a brain trust to promote the economic cooperation and integration in NEA. We welcome the selection of “Promoting the Connectivity in the GTI” and “Prospect of Greater Tumen Regional Cooperation” as the first joint research projects of the RIN and commit our strong support for its implementation.

We note with pleasure the longstanding supports on administration and fund management provided by the UNDP, and the technical assistance on GTI activities provided by partner organizations, including Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), Korea Registration Research Institute, and Asian Development Bank. We welcome the further extension of cooperation arrangements with GIZ and

UNESCAP.

4. Administration, Finance and Project Management

We review and endorse the 2017 Work Plan, 2016 Expenditure, and 2017 Budget Proposal. With the expansion of the GTI cooperative activities and its enlarged workforces, we understand the financial constraints faced by the GTI and direct the NCs and the GTI Secretariat to study the necessity for increasing the financial contributions or other options and propose solutions.

5. The Way Forward

The governments of China, Mongolia, and Korea extend their gratitude to the government of Russia for its chairmanship since the 16th GTI CC Meeting and the successful hosting of the 17th GTI CC Meeting in Moscow, Russia.

We appreciate the GTI Secretariat for its effective implementation of the decisions of the Consultative Commission.

We look forward to convening the 18th GTI CC Meeting in 2018 hosted by the government of Mongolia.