

Ulaanbaatar Declaration

The 18th Meeting of the Greater Tumen Initiative Consultative Commission
June 22, 2018

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 18th Meeting of the GTI Consultative Commission (CC) in Ulaanbaatar on June 22, 2018, reaffirming goals of regional development and prosperity have reached the following decisions and consensus.

1. Strategic Development

We reassure our commitment to progress the GTI in transforming itself into member-driven independent intergovernmental institution mandated to advance the agenda for sustainable regional development and economic cooperation in Northeast Asia and re-confirm consensus reached and progress made so far by member states in negotiations towards establishing an intergovernmental cooperation institution to deliver tangible outputs by implementing practical projects and activities. We direct National Coordinators (NCs) to facilitate for and make every effort to *consolidate any pending intra-governmental and intergovernmental discussions and negotiations, reach consensus and make necessary decisions*.

We acknowledge the follow-up efforts done by the NCs and the GTI Secretariat upon endorsement of concept for development of project-oriented functionality within Secretariat, seeing this as an important factor in the organizational capacity building of GTI. Based on the outcomes of related study and proposal, we direct NCs to conduct outreach with the purposes of seeking for *technical support from partners in the development of project facilitation mechanism*.

We recognize the importance of capacity building of GTI and, therefore, as a vital part of institutional development of GTI, acknowledge the priority of *development of knowledge management functionalities* and advise the Secretariat to actively engage in the knowledge sharing and capacity building activities with related institutions in the region and beyond. We stress that enhancement of *area-specific knowledge* and application of thematic approach in the work of committees and boards. We stress the importance of active outreach towards development partners to mobilize resources for *expansion and strengthening of the GTI's network and knowledge and expertise base*.

We reiterate the significance of engagement of all NEA countries in GTI for enhanced regional economic integration and building up a shared future, and stress the need to promote dialogue and strengthen the collaboration with Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Japan on project activities and other modalities of cooperation. We welcome Japan to consider joining GTI.

We welcome the Panmunjeom Declaration agreed between the leaders of the two Koreas on April 27, 2018, and positive outcomes of the United States and DPRK at the Singapore Summit on June 12, 2018 and hope that those agreements will strengthen peace and prosperity in the NEA including the GTR. The GTI invites DPRK to consider rejoining the initiative at its earliest convenience.

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 Partnership," "Belt and Road Initiative," "Development Road Program," as well as "New Northern Policy".

2. Development in Priority Sectors

Transport

We agree on the importance of the enhanced management of corridors in NEA which is in line with the GTI Regional Transport Strategy and, taking into account, time factor and recent political developments and perspectives in the region, call on to consider conducting a new study for transport strategy. We commend the GTI Secretariat to revisit the role of the Transport Board and utilize the GTI Transport Expert Group to identify specific topics of focus in harmonization and facilitation of the procedures, standards and requirements at the border crossing points and in the process of intermodal transportation. We believe that mechanisms for exchange of logistics information should be developed and cooperation in transport education and programmatic knowledge exchange be promoted. We note with satisfaction the accession of Republic of Korea to the Organization for Cooperation between Railways (OSJD) where China, Mongolia, and Russia are members, and we believe this progress would stimulate the comprehensive development of GTR railway corridors.

Trade and Investment

We emphasize the importance of policy coordination and exchange on trade and investment in NEA and recognize the outcome of the Trade and Investment Cooperation Roundtable Meeting and the 6th Trade Facilitation Capacity Building Program. We acknowledge, with high esteem, the successful implementation of the “AEO Cooperation Scheme among Customs Administration”, expecting further practical follow-up activities among the member states, and endorse new projects on policy dialogue on the industrial parks and information sharing on FTAs/RTAs. We notice positive progress on the Study on the Soft Environment of Regional Supply Chain Connectivity and encourage collective actions to address the bottlenecks hindered the trade connectivity in the region.

In achieving the objectives of facilitating trade and investment in NEA, we encourage TIC and CSC to design and implement various projects under the GTI Trade and Investment Cooperation Roadmap 2017-2020. We continuously emphasize the key role of private sector in regional cooperation, and expect to make concrete actions to revitalize business-government cooperation under the GTI framework.

Tourism

We agree that GTI should continue its efforts to further enhance cooperation on the development of multi-destination tourism routes and promote the GTR as an attractive, world-class tourism destination.

We recognize the positive cooperation with World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) by welcoming the conclusion of the Memorandum of Understanding between GTI and UNWTO, and appreciate the joint projects with UNWTO to build the capacity of GTI tourism stakeholders in the marketing of tourism destinations and tourism planning and preparation of tour operators for international travel affairs.

We support the on-going consultations and development work for the establishment of a web platform for regular information-sharing among regional tourism stakeholders and promotion of tourism products in the GTR. We encourage further work aimed at the promotion of GTR brand as a single tourism destination internationally and developing GTI specific tourism products and tourism promotion tools.

Energy

We welcome initiatives undertaken by the Secretariat, members states and partners, including UNESCAP, for holding side event back to back with Energy Board Meeting. We expect finalization of national reports within the third quarter of 2018 under the Project on Research on Regional Industrial Energy Efficiency Cooperation with concrete outcomes and directions to lay the foundation for future work of the Energy Board.

Environment

We acknowledge that intensified dialogue is needed to identify areas of mutual interest for cooperation in environmental protection and sustainable development. Commencement of widely anticipated project for development of GTI Environmental Cooperation Strategy will kick-start the discussion and elaborations on the topic and direction of regional environmental cooperation.

Agriculture

We appreciate efforts of Agriculture Committee members in implementation of a joint project which provided insight for future potential activities and reiterate our resolution to further develop new project ideas both in agriculture and other cross-cutting sectors, to form the information exchange platform for tackling major issues in agriculture development and exchange of knowledge and technologies of common interest, and to expand partnership for development of joint projects and activities. We appreciate the positive outcomes of China Agriculture Technical Study Tour and encourage further cooperation in this area.

3. Partners' Collaboration and Partnership Development

We appreciate NEA EXIM Banks Association members efforts in serving as resource mobilization mechanism for GTI projects. We welcome extension of validity 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 by exploring the possibility of another potential GTI projects.

We commend the progress made by the GTI Research Institutions Network (RIN) members in 2017 and acknowledge their importance in the promotion of economic cooperation and integration in NEA as a think tank. We welcome the output of "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 the endorsement of Heihe Declaration and commend the initiative and efforts by members of Local Cooperation Committee towards taking the Committee to the next level by intensifying the work on project development and implementation, especially in pilot transport route testing, and information exchange. Taking stock on past development and members' needs, we recommend considering the development of a robust mechanism for logistics information and data exchange by building on and improving existing tools and instruments.

We highlight the growing partnership and collaboration with GIZ that, over the years, has expanded from collaboration in trade facilitation and local cooperation to support to the organizational development of GTI and strengthening of institutional arrangements backed by efficient coordination and close communication between with GIZ. We look forward to continued joint work across sectors as well as GIZ's further assistance in the institutional development of GTI.

We welcome organization of "GTI Northeast Asia Economic Cooperation Seminar" which could become a good platform to exchange views on future of sustainable regional development and cooperation.

We remark the long-standing and successful development cooperation with UNESCAP and given the two institutions' similar mandates across sectors including trade facilitation and promotion, transport and logistics, energy, environment and agriculture, we encourage to deepen the ongoing work and building on this replicate the success to other dimensions and foster synergies by complementing with each other's advantages in technical capacity, network and resources on one side and policy coordination and facilitation on the other.



In recognition of need for stronger network and versatile resource base, we advise to actively engage in awareness raising about GTI, conduct outreach activities and missions to different stakeholders and potential partners and seek for opportunities of joint activities and gaining financial, technical and in-kind support to GTI's undertakings and GTI's development as an institution.

4. Administration, Finance and Project Management

We review and endorse the 2018 Work Plan, 2017 Expenditure, and 2018 Budget Proposal. We note growing financial and human resource constraints faced by the GTI with increased tasks and demands, and direct NCs and the Secretariat to seek for possible solutions for additional financial and in-kind support to GTI's activities and Secretariat's daily operations.

5. The Way Forward

The governments of China, Korea and Russia extend their gratitude to the Government of Mongolia for its chairmanship since the 17th GTI CC Meeting and the successful hosting of the 18th GTI CC Meeting in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.

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

We look forward to convening the 19th GTI CC Meeting in 2019 hosted by the government of China.