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DEPARTMENT OF SAARC AND REGIONAL
ORGANISATIONS
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
ROYAL GOVERNMENT OF BHUTAN



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Press Release

The 15th Ministerial Meeting of the Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) was held in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates (UAE) on 17th January 2017 which was preceded by the meeting of the ACD Senior Officials and the Energy Working Group.

The Bhutanese Delegation was led by H.E. Mr. Tshering Gyaltsen Penjor, Ambassador of Bhutan to Kuwait and included officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Economic Affairs.

The meeting adopted the Abu Dhabi Declaration and the ACD Energy action which will serve as a blueprint for a collaborative approach in implementing energy related programs and projects for realization of enhanced regional security and sustainability of energy resources and technologies.

Ambassador while sharing Bhutan's experiences in Hydropower expressed the need to develop a regional energy market that is viable with infrastructural facilities for trading, and harmonizing legal and regulatory framework.

Bhutan as Co-prime Mover for the 6th Priority Pillar, namely "Promoting Approaches to Inclusive and Sustainable Development", Ambassador mentioned that Bhutan looked forward to discussing the Concept Note prepared by Thailand during the ACD Working Group on Sustainable Development to be held in Thailand in June 2017.

Ambassador Penjor also expressed admiration for UAE's initiatives to promote happiness as a policy objective especially when globally an increasing number of countries are seeking holistic approaches to development and putting them into practice. UAE's new appointments of a Minister of Happiness and Minister of Tolerance deserve special mention.

