

**Asia Cultural Co-operation Forum (ACCF) 2009 –  
Asian Cultural Ministers' Meeting  
Statement on Cultural Co-operation Arrangement**

Hong Kong, 8 October 2009

Culture brings joy and meaning to life. It not only enriches our lives but also enlivens our city and economy. Under the overall theme of ACCF 2009 “The Cultural Asian”, the focus of the Asian Cultural Ministers' Meeting today is on “Arts in Living, Living in Arts”.

We, the Ministers, Secretaries and senior officials responsible for cultural affairs in the People's Republic of China, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam and Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China, met today to exchange views on culture. Tremendous efforts have been put into bringing culture and the arts to every stratum of our communities. Culture and the arts have become an indispensable part of people's daily lives.

In all our communities, culture has become an increasingly important driver for economic growth, a building block of our social cohesion and an asset of our civic pride. It is also a force for education and social transformation.

Considering our commitment –

- to promote culture as a source of creativity and a force of sustainable economic development,
- to enhance local, regional and global dialogue and co-operation in the field of culture and the arts,
- to encourage participation from the business community and engage civil society in cultural activities, and
- to preserve cultural heritage and respect cultural diversity as the most fundamental principle of our cultural development,

we jointly declare that we will continue to pursue the following five areas of work in light of discussions at the Asia Cultural Co-operation Forum 2009 –

1. We should fully stress the key role of culture in the all-round development of human potential. We should continue to combat poverty, promote peace and stability, provide opportunities for everyone to experience art with pleasure, as well as develop individuals' potential in culture to sustain the healthy growth of our cultural audience and talents, and in turn the dynamic intercultural interactions between them.
2. We should further emphasise culture as a driver of economic growth. This calls for the provision of an environment that is conducive to the development of cultural and creative enterprises and industries, including the protection of intellectual property rights, promotion of culture market, exchange of information, networking among cultural experts and artists, and integration of conservation attitudes into economic and social goals. At the same time, we should make the best endeavour to promote the free flow of cultural exchanges in the region.
3. We should continue to support local and global cultural dialogue by celebrating the Asian multi-rooted cultural heritage and pluralism and encouraging interaction among artists of diverse origins and traditions, local and international practitioners and artists, through means such as arts festivals, conferences for arts training methodologies and collaborative productions and reciprocal exchanges of artists and personnel.
4. We should accord priority to the preservation of cultural heritage and the defence of the diversity of cultures through encouraging and supporting the public authorities, non-governmental organisations as well as business entities in initiating related cultural initiatives and programmes.
5. We should encourage creative endeavours of people, particularly those of the younger generation. School curricula should be so designed as to nurture young talents and build new audience.

To hasten the implementation of our joint statement, we pledge to contribute our continuous efforts to the promotion and co-ordination of cultural programmes and initiatives in line with the above principles among members of ACCF.

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