# The 27<sup>th</sup> AsiaConstruct Conference Minutes of Leaders' Meeting

**Date:** 23 and 24 of September 2024

7:30 PM – 9:00PM (23rd) 12:00 PM-1:00PM (24th)

Venue: Room "Kaede", Level 4, the Dai-Ichi Hotel Ryogoku Tokyo, Tokyo

Present: Mr. Sanna Rathinavelu India

Mr. Taufik Widjoyono Indonesia
Mr. Syarif Burhanuddin Indonesia
Ms. Zainora binti Zainal Malaysia
Ms. Che Saliza binti Che Soh Malaysia

Mr. Myoengsoo Kim

Mr. Jinwook Shin

Republic of Korea

Republic of Korea

Republic of Korea

Mr. Moti Sasaki (Chairman) Japan Mr. Masaki Sugamiya Japan Interpreter Japan

**ACC Secretariat** 

#### **Minutes**

## Meeting Agendas

#### Day 1 on 23 September 2024

### 1 Confirmation of the Meeting Minutes of the last Leaders' Meeting

The Chairman said that item one would not be discussed as the host country of the 26<sup>th</sup> ACC (India) had not prepared the minutes and asked for comments from India. India said that the ACC should have a common secretariat to enable future host countries to prepare the minutes. Japan said that it is stipulated that the host country will prepare the minutes of the Leaders' Meeting.

### 2 Report from the Host on the process of invitation

Japan briefly explained the background the invitation of member countries/regions.

- In the Leaders' Meeting of the 26<sup>th</sup> ACC in India, there was a request that the next ACC host country should be Japan. Based on Japan's consideration after that, in July of the same year, Japan sent notification letters to the participants of the 26<sup>th</sup> ACC, stating that Japan had accepted their request.
- There were 14 organizations/ countries that have participated in the ACC since 1995, but Japan did not have the contact information of the ACC. In September of the same year, Japan collected all email addresses related to the ACC in their organization, and found 70 email addresses in 10 countries, and sent them the

email to ask each country's contact information. As a result, there was a response from 9 countries including India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Korea, Hong Kong, Australia, Vietnam, Philippines and Sri Lanka, but not from Singapore.

- Japan did not have the contact information of China, New Zealand, Mongolia and Singapore, so they tried to get their contact information through the organization's website and the embassy in Japan.
- Japan sent emails to 9 countries whose contact information was identified to confirm their attendance. As a result, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka, Australia and the Philippines replied. However, among these countries; Australia, Philippines and Sri Lanka indicated that they would not participate in the conference afterwards. In addition, Mongolia decided to participate in the conference as a listener from Mongolian Embassy in Japan.

## 3 Possible Main Themes of the ACC for the next year and beyond

The Chairman asked the participating countries what topic they would be interested in for the next conference.

#### • Republic of Korea

Republic of Korea is interested in the following topics as the host country of the next ACC.

- Eco-friendly construction
- Safety issues
- Smart technologies

#### Malaysia

- Malaysia supported Korea's idea of "Smart technologies".

#### Indonesia

- Digital technology
- Climate change

### India

- Environment
- Economy
- Safety
- Energy conservation

#### 4 About Secretariat Functions

The Chairman asked for opinions or comments about the secretariat functions.

#### India

- It is very important to have a common secretariat, which has the posts of chairman, Member secretary and president, so that Member countries can see all their history and the secretariat can upload new documents or hold online meetings.
- For example, although the ACC have presented great documents, our performance does not reach the people of the world. If the ACC could reach the governments or

politicians, they could send us money.

#### Indonesia

- The ACC website could be used as a data center for the construction industry in Asia.

### Republic of Korea

- Korea praised that Japan renewed the ACC website this year and uploaded the past documents. This would be very useful not only for us but also other experts.

### Malaysia

- Malaysia did not recognize that the ACC is a formal organization but a casual and informal network where a group of knowledgeable people from different countries get together and exchange ideas.
- It would be useful to keep the past documents as a database to be used for strategy planning, policy making and academic research. Malaysia refers to the past Country Reports for policy making.
- The ACC website could be very useful in many ways. For example, if Members want to invite other countries or organizations, they can go to the website to show the overview of the ACC.

## 5 Showing the draft of Host's Summary

- Japan distributed the draft of the Host's Summary to be read out during the "Conclusion" session of the 27<sup>th</sup> ACC program and explained the overview.
- Paragraph 2 of the Host's Summary contains the brief summary of each country's presentation. Japan requested the participating countries confirm facts and give feedback including draft amendments by 9 a.m. of the next day.

### Day 2 on 24 September 2024

### 1 Activities or Outputs of AsiaConstruct Network

#### India

- India suggests holding workshops on important themes by using online meeting tools such as Zoom. There is no need to travel or stay overnight, and there are no large expenses.
- For this purpose, a 'common secretariat' will be needed to communicate and coordinate with member countries that want to hold an event, including sending them meeting links.

### Malaysia

- Malaysia suggests online sessions that invite construction associations and private sectors. For example, Malaysia holds webinars with the EU and ASEAN, which does not require any cost.

## Indonesia

- The problem is that who plans the online sessions and how to determine the theme and schedule.

### Republic of Korea

- Through the ACC website, Members can share their ideas and knowledge on interesting topics about construction economy in English. This could be very useful for interacting with each institution.

#### Japan

- Regarding the ACC website, Japan is currently designated as the website administrator, so we will continue to manage and operate it although the host country will change. We would like each institution to expand the website link to related institutions as much as possible.
- Even if the cost of online sessions can be reduced, the burden on the organizer is still significant, so it is necessary to continue the discussion, including who will be the organizer.

## 2 About Membership

#### • India

- The ACC already has enough members. The problem is that the number of participating institutions is decreasing. If the ACC holds more programs, the number of participating institutions will increase.

### • Republic of Korea

- The ACC's regulation of "only one institution can participate from each country" should be reconsidered. If experts from other institutions can participate, they can share knowledge and opinions that we do not have.

#### Japan

- It seems that participating countries have the consensus that the ACC should expand the membership despite the rule that only one institution can participate from each country. This issue is important not only for the next host country, Republic of Korea, but also for the other Member countries. For the next conference, it would be appreciated if you could reach out to countries that did not participate or that Japan could not contact this time, through the various networks that the ACC member countries have. Although it would be depending on the theme, there may be more appropriate institutions from the countries participating in the 27th ACC. This matter should be considered for the next conference.

### 3 About Secretariat Functions

#### India

- Online sessions should be maintained by the Japan Secretariat because they manage the ACC website.

### Malaysia

- Regarding the matter of ACC website management, here is the case in 2018, when Malaysia hosted the conference. The Japan Secretariat sent the administrator password to Malaysia, and Malaysia collected and uploaded all the data from the participating countries.

### Japan

- Japan was not aware of the 2018 case. As the host country changes every year, it is inconvenient that different countries manage the website every year. The regulation also states that the website management should be carried out by Japan.
- The matter of the secretariat function should be continuously discussed.

## 4 Host Countries for Next and Subsequent Years

- With regards to the next host country, Republic of Korea has expressed their intention to host the next conference, and the ACC would like to welcome that. (No one had any objection.)
- Considering the recent cases of the rotation, it seems that the next country after Republic of Korea will be Indonesia, followed by Malaysia, India and Japan. (No one had any objection.)

## 5 Confirmation of "Host's Summary" Text

- Regarding paragraph 2, the amendments submitted by 9:00 on the second day was displayed on the screen. The Chairman asked if it would be all right to announce it at the Conclusion session. (No one had any objection.)