

ANNEX 9
PAKSE DECLARATION ON TOURISM COOPERATION
IN THE EMERALD TRIANGLE¹

We, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Cambodia, Lao PDR, and Thailand gathered at Pakse District, Champasak Province, on August 2nd, 2003 to deliberate on the framework for tourism cooperation,

In keeping with the spirit of existing framework of tourism cooperation to bring together and utilize tourism resources in this sub-region for the mutual benefit of each country,

Recognizing the importance of tourism as a significant industry in their respective countries, which provides job opportunities, thereby advancing socioeconomic development together with the promotion of the diverse cultural and world heritages recognized by international organizations,

Inspiring by the common desire to stimulate cultural exchange and encourage international friendship and mutual understanding, as well as promote peaceful coexistence among Cambodia, Lao PDR and Thailand,

Focusing on the promotion of tourism cooperation in a designated geographical parameter of the Triangle namely southern Lao PDR, northwestern Cambodia, and northeastern Thailand,

Endeavoring to promote and harmonize the regulatory framework of tourism sector in this sub-region in order to facilitate the implementation of tourism cooperation.

Hereby declare and commit ourselves to:

1. Encourage and facilitate authorities and private sectors at national and local level involved in tourism to exchange experience and develop joint promotion and marketing to attract tourists from inside the Emerald Triangle region as well as tourists from all over the world to visit Cambodia, Lao PDR and Thailand;
2. Encourage and promote investment in tourism facilities and services;

¹ Department of International Economic Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand, <http://www.mfa.go.th/business/1487.php> (Accessed January 28, 2007).

3. Develop tourism infrastructure;
4. Develop human resources to support the tourism industry;
5. Upgrade and facilitate international border check points to ease travel between Cambodia, Lao PDR, and Thailand;
6. Establish a joint working group to formulate the action plan on tourism cooperation by the end of 2003;
7. Undertake cooperation activities such as joint research, exchange of visits, training of personnel, setting up database and promoting tourist attractions to key target groups including diplomatic corps and journalists.
8. Propose to our Leaders to elevate this cooperation to the summit meeting of the Leaders of the three countries in the near future to promote tourism and other development areas in the Emerald Triangle.

In the future, we believe that tourism cooperation in the Emerald Triangle can be expanded to include other important areas, such as agriculture, environmental protection, rural development, and infrastructure development, in which they would be of vital importance to help support tourism development among the three countries.

Adopted by unanimous acclamation this 2nd August 2003, at Foreign Ministerial Meeting among Cambodia - Lao PDR - Thailand, at Pakse, Champasak Province, Lao PDR.
