

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
GOVERNMENT OF THE
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH
DHAKA



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গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
ঢাকা

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The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh presents its compliments to the D-8 Secretariat and has the honor to forward comments of the Energy and Mineral Resources Division, Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources of the People's Republic of Bangladesh on the views of Turkey and Egypt on "Plan of Action of the Working Group on Mining and Minerals".

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the D-8 Secretariat the assurances of its highest consideration.

Enclosure : (4 pages)

D-8 Secretariat
Istanbul, Turkey

Dhaka, 13 January 2010



Comments

on

Views of Turkey and Egypt Plan of Action of the Working Group on Mining and Minerals

Introduction

Minerals are necessary in maintaining today's modern life and as a natural asset; minerals can stimulate or enhance economic growth potential and social progress of the country. D-8 countries are rich with natural resources, especially mines and minerals and as such expecting mining as an expanding industry for the next 20 to 30 years, decided to establish cooperation in the fields of mining and minerals.

Growing world economic activity and industrial production in the past four decades has resulted in a significant increase in the demand of minerals globally. In recent years, international increased consumption has further boosted world minerals demand and prices. Thus creating incentives and opportunities for D-8 member countries to commercialize their mineral reserves.

Strategy

In the D-8 Minerals Cooperation Action Plan (DMCAP), there are 3 (three) Strategies with well- defined actions under the following titles:

1. Facilitating and Enhancing Trade and Investment in Mineral Strategy
2. Promoting Environmentally and Socially Sustainable Mineral Strategy
3. Strengthening Institutional and Human Capacities in the D-8 Minerals Sector

EMRD's Comments on Turkey's Views

Strategy 1: Facilitating and Enhancing Trade and Investment in Minerals

Item TI 2

Produce a conducive institutional and regulatory framework to enhance trade and investment in the mineral resource development, mineral based products, services and technologies related to mineral sector through, amongst others, the establishment of a One Stop Mineral Trade and Investment Center in each D-8 Member country.

Turkey's views	EMRD's Comments
The establishment of "One Stop Mineral Trade and Investment Center" is recommended. However, the purpose of the establishment of this center or its functions is not explained in the Action Plan. It would be better to have a clarification about the proposal and a further discussion after the clarification.	EMRD has the same opinion with the Turkey's proposal on this issue of clarifying the purpose of the establishment and the functions of "One Stop Mineral Trade and Investment Center."

Item TI 4

Facilitate access to information on trade and investment in the mineral and mineral-based industry including information on mineral exploration, development, utilization and value-added activities.

Item TI 5

Facilitate access to information through the development of activities such as the D-8 Mineral Database, D-8 Mineral Website, etc., with the view to facilitate investment cooperation in the mineral sector.

Turkey's views	EMRD's Comments
To develop a mineral database network and establishing a web-based directory is proposed. There is a similar study in the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) called as "ECO Geosciences Database".	ECO maintain the database of the countries other than D-8 countries so it would be better to have a separate Database for the D-8 member countries and this Database can be harmonized with the ECO Geosciences Database.

Strategy 2:

Promoting Environmentally and Socially Sustainable Mineral Development

Paragraph ES 2

Improve social and environmental frameworks to support safe, responsible and sustainable mineral- development, including harmonization of regional environmental standards and promotion of economic instruments and valuation tools for sustainable mineral development

Item TI 1

Trade opportunities and impediments

(i) Establish information sharing mechanism with the view to possibly harmonize mineral policies of D 8 member countries.

Turkey's views	EMRD's Comments
It is important to bring the following information to the attention of the D-8 member countries. While discussing the harmonization of mineral policies of the D-8 member countries. Turkey will take into consideration the mining policies stated in the IX. Development Plan (for 2007-2013; approved by the Turkish Grand National Assembly), in the Annual Program and other sectoral plans and strategies, as well as the ongoing harmonization program with the EU Legislation and commitments to other organizations.	EMRD would like to harmonize only the mineral policies of common interest of the D-8 member countries

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Paragraph ES 1

Support private sector development and national and foreign investment for environmentally and socially sustainable mineral development.

Paragraph ES 3

Promote environmentally sound and socially responsible mineral development practices in the sustainable management and rational utilization of mineral resources.

Turkey's views	EMRD's Comments
<p>The actions of "supporting" and "promoting" should be clearly identified. Reviewing of existing incentives, facilitating dialogue between stakeholders or exchanging knowledge on good or bad practices on sustainable management and rational utilization of mineral resources are favorable actions and should be supported. On the other hand, if the intention is generating new direct subsidies, the additional burden of these subsidies to the budget will have to be determined before agreeing on that action, as well as the action "IH 4 (iv) request for multilateral/bilateral aid".</p>	<p>EMRD fully agrees with the Turkey's proposal. EMRD thinks the actions of "supporting" and "promoting" needs clarification that will be helpful for all the D-8 member countries.</p>

EMRD's Comments on Egypt's Views

Strategy 1:

Facilitating and Enhancing Trade and Investment in Minerals

Paragraph TI 5

Facilitate access to information through the development of activities such as the D-8 Mineral Database, D-8 Mineral Website, etc., with the view to facilitate investment cooperation in the mineral sector.

Egypt's views	EMRD's Comments
<p>Egypt agrees with all the action plan listed under Strategy 1 except for the action plan on Mineral Database (T15). Egypt agrees with Malaysia comments for this action plan to be placed under newly proposed Strategy which focus on developing database as listed in the newly proposed Strategy 4.</p>	<p>Egypt's proposal on this issue is similar to Malaysia's proposal on which EMRD had the same opinion.</p>

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Strategy 2: Promoting Environmentally and Socially Sustainable Mineral Development

Paragraph ES 5

ES 5 Engage relevant international and regional organizations, in the promotion of sustainable mineral development, research and development and technology transfer cooperative programmes and activities.

Egypt's views	EMRD's Comments
Egypt agrees with all the action plans under this Strategy and likes to add an additional statement to action plan ES5 as follows: Co-operation in Mining Industry including small- scale Mining, Mineral, Beneficiation, Environment/Sustainable Development, Minerals promotion, Research and Development within the D-8 countries	EMRD agrees with the Egypt's proposal on this issue

Strategy 3: Strengthening Institutional and Human Capacities in the D-8 Minerals Sector

Egypt's views	EMRD's Comments
Egypt agrees with all the action plans under this Strategy	EMRD agrees with the Egypt's proposal on all the action plans

Strategy 4: Developing D-8 Mining and Mineral database System Action Plan

Egypt's views	EMRD's Comments
(a) Establish networking among the research institutes within the D-8 member countries. (b) Developing D-8 Mining & Minerals database system (c) Organize visits, exchange of expertise' and information, statistic and publication of Mineral exploration, development and utilization.	Egypt's Proposal on this issue is similar to the Malaysia's proposal where EMRD had the same opinion.

Conclusion

Successful implementation of any Action Plan depends on the steps to be taken as per set time frame. As such Bangladesh should be concerned about those activities and take initiative to maintain schedule towards sustainable minerals development.