

# Tumen Secretariat

In Association With The United Nations Development Programme



## To promote prosperity in Northeast Asia

### Northeast Asia regional cooperation gets a boost at Ministerial Meeting held in Vladivostok, Russia

**15 November, Vladivostok, Russia** – A **Greater Tumen Initiative** (GTI) ministerial-level meeting concluded today with the adoption of the Vladivostok Declaration, including the launch of new institutional structures such as the Business Advisory Council, the Energy Board and the Tourism Council, further strengthening regional cooperation for economic growth and sustainable development in Northeast Asia.

The **GTI 9<sup>th</sup> Consultative Commission** meeting brought together high-level officials from China, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), Mongolia, the Republic of Korea (ROK) and Russia, the five countries members of the Greater Tumen Initiative (GTI) who reaffirmed their commitment to take full ownership of the GTI and financially support the activities of the Tumen Secretariat.

According to Nataliya Yacheistova, Director of the Tumen Secretariat, "The 9th CC meeting proved to be a turning-point in the intergovernmental cooperation in North-East Asia, marked through the strengthening of the institutional mechanism, creation of the regional platform for public-private dialogue, demonstration of the strong will of all member countries to continue cooperation in key sectors and to promote peaceful, sustainable development in the region".

A major outcome of the meeting is the establishment of the **GTI Business Advisory Council (BAC)** whose aim is to serve as a platform to foster public-private partnerships and attract investment in the Greater Tumen Region.

Another key outcome is the creation of an Energy Board, as a new platform for policy dialogue and common activities to ensure the provision of energy needed for the economic development of Northeast Asia. The creation of the Tourism Council as an advisory council to governments in inter-regional tourism activities also reflects the potential growth of this sector in the Greater Tumen Region.

A number of concrete projects and activities identified by the Member countries were adopted such as the opening of a new ferry route to connect Troitsa (Russia), Sokcho (ROK) and Nigata (Japan) to improve inter-regional transportation, the feasibility study for a new Mongolia-China railway allowing a better access to sea ports and markets for land-locked provinces and the modernization of the Zarubino port in Russia to become a major transit cargo port servicing North East Asia. These initiatives will be submitted as GTI projects to various funding partners, including the private sector at a GTI Investment Forum to take place in Vladivostok on Friday 16 November.

To further support these efforts, a North East Asia Partnership Forum was held on the heels of the Ministerial Meeting to discuss investment potential and partnership opportunities in the GTI priority sectors.

Northeast Asia is a vast geographic region which offers enormous potential for investment and job opportunities. The **Tumen River** ties together this vast region and is at the crossroads of trade and vital

1-1-142 Tayuan Diplomatic Compound, 1 Xindong Avenue, Chaoyang District, Beijing 100600, P. R. China

Tel: (86-10) 65326871/5543; Fax: (86-10) 65326465

Website: [www.tumenprogramme.org](http://www.tumenprogramme.org); E-mail: [Tumen@public.un.org.cn](mailto:Tumen@public.un.org.cn)

北京新东路 1 号塔园 1-1-142 邮编 : 100600

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transport routes. Rich in gas, oil and minerals, the **Greater Tumen Region** has easy access to affluent markets in the GTI five member countries and Japan, representing over 500 million consumers.

The **Greater Tumen Initiative** is a regional cooperation mechanism established in 1995 by China, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), Mongolia, the Republic of Korea (ROK), and Russia, and supported by the United Nations Development Programme. It is a unique intergovernmental platform for economic cooperation and exchanges in Northeast Asia and serves as a catalyst for policy dialogue and cooperation in the areas of transportation, energy, tourism, investment and environment.

*For more information, please visit the GTI website at [www.tumenprogramme.org](http://www.tumenprogramme.org) or contact the GTI Secretariat and its Director Ms Nataliya Yacheistova at [nataliya.yacheistova@undp.org](mailto:nataliya.yacheistova@undp.org) or by phone at +86 10 6532 6871*

1-1-142 Tayuan Diplomatic Compound, 1 Xindong Avenue, Chaoyang District, Beijing 100600, P. R. China  
Tel: (86-10) 65326871/5543; Fax: (86-10) 65326465  
Website: [www.tumenprogramme.org](http://www.tumenprogramme.org); E-mail: [Tumen@public.un.org.cn](mailto:Tumen@public.un.org.cn)  
北京新东路 1 号塔园 1-1-142 邮编 : 100600