

Opening Remarks by Singapore Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, H.E
Mr. Zainul Abidin Rasheed at the Sixth Meeting of the Council of Ministers
of IOR-ARC
Tehran, 21st 22nd February 2006

Main points

- Mr. Abidin Rasheed congratulated the Chair on his election, and thanked the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran for their excellent arrangements and hospitality accorded during the IOR-ARC meetings.
- He noted that the Senior Officials had a productive meeting in the preceding days and had come up with constructive proposals. Specifically, he noted that there was a consensus that the IOR-ARC identify several tangible projects that Member States could jointly embark on.
- He noted that the preceding speakers had demonstrated through their opening remarks the political resolve of their countries to fulfil their collective interests within the IOR-ARC.
- He noted the importance of the private sectors of each Member State in driving the projects proposed by the IOR-ARC.
- He expressed satisfaction that Member States had recognized the importance of sharing information concerning tsunami early warning systems as well as contingency plans to manage avian flu outbreaks. Mr. Zainol Abidin Rasheed expressed his hope that there would be concrete progress in these areas.
- He expressed confidence that the Sixth IOR-ARC Council of Ministers Meeting would be a success under the able Chairmanship of Iran.