

**United Nations Regional Task Force on Mobility and HIV Vulnerability Reduction (UNRTF)  
and  
Asian Development Bank (ADB)**

**will host the**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Workshop on HIV Prevention and the Infrastructure Sector  
in the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS)**

24-26 November  
Bangkok, Thailand

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION NOTE**

Governments and development partners are working to improve connectivity, competitiveness and community for the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS). But economic and social growth driven by improved connectivity can also have a downside. Mobility and migration are strongly linked to an increased risk of HIV infection. The goal of a more integrated, prosperous, and equitable GMS can be achieved only if this risk is comprehensively addressed. Promoting and supporting increased connectivity and regional integration through significant infrastructure investments means that Governments and development partners must also recognize and understand the social and economic dimensions of mobility, migration, and HIV. Development partners have both an obligation to mitigate the HIV risks associated with transport and other large infrastructure investments, and an opportunity to contribute strategically and effectively to the fight against HIV and poverty in the region.

ADB is a leading development financier of infrastructure development in the GMS region and has a growing body of experience in integrating HIV prevention efforts into infrastructure development programs. The UNRTF represents a diverse and knowledgeable group of development partners with a keen interest in supporting safe mobility and migration. In recent years, the UNRTF has supported several key knowledge-building activities related to HIV risk and mobility and migration. ADB and UNRTF will therefore jointly host the **2<sup>nd</sup> Workshop on HIV Prevention and the Infrastructure Sector in the GMS** in Bangkok, Thailand in November 2008.

The 1<sup>st</sup> workshop was held in Bangkok in May 2008 and set out to review information and experiences in addressing HIV vulnerabilities associated with the infrastructure sector in order to harmonize common areas of practice among development agencies. Over 40 participants<sup>1</sup> agreed to jointly develop: (i) a minimum package of interventions, including an M&E framework; (ii) harmonized implementation arrangement options; and (iii) defining core principles and approaches. Since the workshop, a writing group led by ADB has been working on these outputs and final drafts will be presented at the 2<sup>nd</sup> workshop. It is hoped that a broad cross-section of development partners and governments will endorse these guidelines for use in their own programs creating a minimum standard for content and quality while allowing flexibility for adaptation to specific settings and be regularly improved and updated as knowledge and the body of practice experience grows.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> workshop will therefore build on the initial discussions and knowledge sharing undertaken at the 1<sup>st</sup> workshop and seek to involve a broader cross-section of partners and other stakeholders. The workshop will focus on sharing practice experience with a view to improving program outcomes. Invited participants will be representatives from the signatories of the Joint Initiative<sup>2</sup>, relevant government ministries (e.g. infrastructure line ministries and national AIDS authorities), selected regional and bilateral development partners, NGOs, civil society, and private sector.

<sup>1</sup> Participants included representatives from development agencies, Government ministries for health and infrastructure, UN agencies, international and local NGOs, the private sector, and other "practitioners" who have implemented, or are currently working on, HIV prevention initiatives in the infrastructure sector in the GMS.

<sup>2</sup> *Joint Initiative by Development Agencies for the Infrastructure Sectors to Mitigate the Spread of HIV/AIDS*, signed on 11 August 2006 in Toronto, Canada.