

Welcome and Opening Remarks
By
Mr. Arkhom Termpittayapaisith
Deputy Secretary-General,
National Economic and Social Development Board (NESDB)
At the Development Partners' Meeting
Dusit Thani Hua Hin Hotel, Cha-am, Petchburi
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Excellencies, Senior Officials from GMS Countries,

Mr. Arjun Thapan, Director General, Southeast Asia Department, Asian Development Bank,

Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Royal Thai Government, it is my great pleasure and honor to welcome you all to the meeting with Development Partners in the 15th Ministerial Meeting. I would like to take this opportunity to extend a warm welcome to representatives from various international organizations, financial institutions, as well as our countries' partners including the private sectors. By bringing you all together here today, we are hoping to benefit from your experiences, views and insights, as we drive our cooperation toward a more inclusive and sustainable development of the Subregion.

Let me take this opportunity to thank the Asian Development Bank (ADB) who has been very supportive to build strong network and

cooperation with all of you and also to help making excellent arrangement for this meeting.

Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The GMS program has come to a very significant part as it is now enter into its 17th year. Outstanding progress has been made as a result of collective efforts and strong commitment of the GMS member countries and the assistance from our partners. The 3Cs strategies of the GMS – namely Connectivity, Competitiveness and Community has gradually been realized as our infrastructure, particularly in transport, is now improved and linked, our people is more expose to better opportunities and public services, and our competitiveness is strengthened. However, there are some remaining difficulties that we need to overcome and equipped ourselves to cope with all global negative impact in a year to come.

Thailand is also determined to participate actively in these efforts. Good examples lie in development of various infrastructure linkages and extension of technical assistances to neighboring countries. Our development partner friends can rest assured that Thailand as well as GMS countries, as always, welcome all opportunities to promote cooperation among us.

Our GMS countries are working with various development partners in the areas namely agriculture, environment, energy, telecommunications, transportation, HRD, trade facilitation, and private sector development. During 1992-2008, a total of 3.32 Billion USD was mobilized under 41

loans and grants and 96.58 million USD under 202 technical assistances. These are indeed impressive figures. They reveal our strong interdependence. Our task now must be to better focus our cooperation and work more on how to further add value to them.

Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am confident that this conference will become a milestone to strengthen cooperation among GMS countries and our supportive partners in order to achieve our sustainable growth in terms of social and economic development of the GMS.

I wish all of you a very productive work and fruitful discussion in today's meeting.

Thank you.

