



The Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) Economic Cooperation Program

Status Report on the Vientiane Plan of Action (2008-2012)

Development Partners' Meeting
15th GMS Ministerial Conference

June 2009

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Transport Sector

- Good progress on projects needed to complete GMS transport corridors
 - e.g., NSEC International Bridge civil works to commence in 2009; NSEC sections in Thailand to be improved
- Preparation of a GMS Railway Strategy
- Establishment and ongoing work of the GMS Economic Corridors Forum (ECF) – initial output: Strategies and Action Plans for the NSEC and the EWEC

Partners' support important in: infrastructure,
logistics systems development along the corridors

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Transport and Trade Facilitation

- Strategic review of the cross-border transport agreement (CBTA) and other transport and trade facilitation initiatives
- Significant progress in initial implementation of CBTA along the GMS corridors – including 3-country exchange of traffic rights along the East-West Corridor
- Proposed GMS Freight Transporters' Association
- SPS Action Plan being prepared
- GMS Economic Corridors Logistics Symposium

Partners' support important in: Facilities and capacity building for CBTA implementation, development of SPS and logistics systems, ensuring consistency with other regional/international TTF initiatives

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Energy Sector

- **Regional Power Trade Coordination Committee (RPTCC)** coordinated the following: (i) Studies for the Power Trade Operating Agreement (PTOA); (ii) Training programs; (iii) Development of power database/ website; and (iv) master plan formulation
- Ongoing key GMS power interconnections and in-country transmission lines; Hydropower projects for export are under development
- GMS Road Map and Work Plan for Expanded GMS Energy Cooperation (2009-2015) for adoption.

Partners' support critical in (i) implementing the Road Map and addressing uneven capacities; (ii) sharing knowledge/ experiences (thru the **Subregional Energy Forum [SEF]**); and (iii) adopting performance targets

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Telecommunications

- GMS Information Superhighway Network: Phase I completed in 2008; Phase II for completion in 2010; Phase III beyond 2010
- Training Needs Assessment done; Capacity Building Program to be finalized shortly

Priority areas for future assistance:

- (i) Sector reform; (ii) ICT awareness-raising; (iii) Improving institutional structure for GMS ISN; (iv) Capitalizing GMS ISN; (v) Capacity building; (vi) Studies on advanced network/ services; and (vii) Promoting ICT applications for development

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Agriculture Sector

- GMS initiative on biofuel and rural renewable energy development proceeding
- Good progress on trans-boundary animal disease control program
- Access to agricultural information expanded
- New study on cross-border agriculture trade facilitation and strategy, including contract farming underway.

Partners' support needed for capacity building in agricultural competitiveness, food safety/SPS standards, rural renewable energy development.

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Environment

- Good progress in Core Environment Program (CEP)
 - (i) Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEA)
 - (ii) Biodiversity Conservation Corridor Initiative
 - (iii) Environmental Performance Assessment (EPA)
 - (iv) Capacity Building, Program Development
 - (v) Program Development, Delivery and Financing
- New Cluster Projects and CEP Phase I Work Program for 2009-2011

Partners' support critical in: (i) enhancing national support units; (ii) greater SEA and EPA integration in development planning; and (iii) maximizing synergies among data generators

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Tourism Sector

- Support to sustainable management of natural and cultural tourism sites continuing (Mekong Tourism Development Project; GMS Sustainable Tourism Project)
- Joint marketing of GMS tourism proceeding; Explore the Mekong campaign, and Visit GMS Years 2009-2010 launched
- MTCO operations strengthened; new Executive Director recruited

Partners' support needed in: tourism management in/around protected areas, tourism development in economic corridors, pro-poor tourism partnership mechanisms, and vocational skills capacity strengthening for tourism SMEs.

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Human Resource Development

- Good progress on communicable disease control (CDC); Phase 1 completing; Phase 2 in pipeline for ADB support ; HIV/AIDS prevention initiatives ongoing, new project in pipeline
- Phnom Penh Plan (PPP) for Development Management continuing, research component launched
- New GMS HRD Strategic Framework and Action Plan prepared

Partners' support critical for CDC, PPP, education & skills standards, labor migration management, anti-trafficking, capacity strengthening for vulnerable groups.

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Thank You!

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