

# Speech by Vice Minister of the Ministry of Planning and Investment – VIETNAM

*Mr. Truong Van Doan, Head of the Delegation*

*from the Socialist Republic of Vietnam*

- H.E Mr. Chairman Cham Prasidh, Senior Minister, Minister of Commerce of Cambodia.
- H.E Mr. Co-Chairman Lawrence Greenwood, Vice President of ADB
- Ministers, Heads of Delegation
- Ladies & Gentlemen!

I am very happy to participate in this 2<sup>nd</sup> GMS Economic Corridor Forum in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. I'd like to express, on behalf of our delegation, our sincere thanks to the Government of Cambodia & the ADB for the very good arrangements for the forum and for their warm welcome & hospitality to the participants.

- Ladies & Gentlemen

Over a year ago, in Yunnan China, we together initiated a new program in GMS Cooperation, materializing the commitment reached by our leaders at the 3<sup>rd</sup> GMS summit in Vientiane - Lao, which is: To establish a common institutional framework and focusing our efforts in transforming and developing transport corridors in to economic corridors.

- Ladies & Gentlemen

Today, with your presence at this 2<sup>nd</sup> ECF Economic Corridor forum, we'll have the opportunities to asset together the achievements, constraints as well as the way forward in the development of the economic corridors.

- Ladies & Gentlemen

With its geographical position, VN is very happy to contribute to all the three economic corridors, namely the North-South Economic Corridors, the East-West Economic

Corridors, and the Southern Economic Corridors. VN gives its strong support to the development of these economic corridors, with special importance attached to the sub-regional transport link system as the fundamental pole of the economic corridors & the implementation of Cross-Border Transport Agreement (CBTA) as well as initiatives for Transport & Trade Facilitation, considering these as indispensable conditions so that the transport corridors can truly become economic corridors.

In Vietnam, attention has been given to the development of all the three economic corridors with the assistance of the ADB and other donors.

- For the North-South Economic Corridor: the Hanoi - Lao Cai Highway connecting Kunming China with Hanoi Capital & Hai Phong seaport, a big seaport in Northern Vietnam has been initiated. The railway linking these 2 big cities, with the assistance of the ADB is also being upgraded. Besides, VN has also signed with the ADB an agreement on conducting a feasibility study for the 2 highway routes: Hanoi – Lang Son for linking to Ping Xeng (China), Hanoi-Mong Cai linking to Dong Xing – I believe that once completed, these transport corridors will create leaps in GMS trade in general and between Vietnam & China in particular.

For the EWEC, in general the transport infrastructure on Vietnamese territory has almost been completed. On these 11<sup>st</sup> 2009, Governments of Lao, Thailand & Cambodia and Vietnam organized for Cross-border traffic flow along the EWEC in accordance with the Cross Border Transport Agreement (CBTA), marking an important step forward in the development of the economic corridor. For the Southern Economic Corridor, Vietnam and Cambodia have agreed on the connection points of the Poipet-Loc Ninh railway route and will promptly accelerate construction of this railway route. Besides, Hanoi is constructing and upgrading the coastal national motorway from Ca Mau to Kien Giang with the total amount of investment capital of 328 million USD. This route will help completing a transport corridor linking Vietnam with Cambodia, Thailand and Myanmar.

We believe that the successful construction of a sub- regional transport route on Vietnam's section and other GMS countries, together with the implementation of software cooperation in GMS such as the CBTA, Transport & Trade Facilitation, combined with other cooperation initiatives in the sub-region will soon make our goal of transforming transport corridors into economic corridors a reality. By then, areas and localities with the economic corridors running through them will be those benefiting directly from the cooperation outcome.

- Ladies & Gentlemen

Yesterday, representatives of governors of GMS corridors, the business community and our staff, together with the effective assistance of the ADB, discussed together the strategies & Action plan for the development of economic corridors.

I believe that by adopting this multi- dimensional dialogue approach, our strategies & action plans will be in touch with reality & can be smoothly implemented.

From now on, policy-making on GMS cooperation will not only focus on implementation at the central level but also on the implementation on the ground with full understanding by Local governments / authorities, as well as by the private sector. They are the main players that put the economic corridors into operation, disseminate the GMS cooperation achievement to our people.

Ladies& Gentlemen!

We are entering the last 3 years of the GMS strategic Framework. More than ever, taking actions aimed at transforming transport into eco- corridors requires great efforts by participating partners as well as the active support from the international donor community, especially the ADB. In reality, much remains to be done ahead before the annexes & Protocol of the GMS agreement are fully implemented.

In the coming time, Vietnam, as an active member with a high sense of responsibility will do our best to contribute to the development of GMS economic corridors for the common

goal of developing GMS into a comprehensive and sustainable development area. With your participation today, and with the valuable support by the ADB and donors, I believe that the reality achieved by our 2<sup>nd</sup> Economic Corridor Forum today will make an important contribution to the success of GMS cooperation in general and the development of Economic Corridor in particular.

- Thank you for your attention
- May I wish you all good health and success to our forum.