

# Governors Forum Chairman's Report

*Presentation to the  
Second GMS Economic Corridors Forum  
Phnom Penh, 17 September 2009*



1

## Highlights

- 250 participants attended
- Briefed about GMS Program, economic corridor approach, roles of Governors Forum and ECF
- Shared insights on issues/constraints, priority actions/measures
- Clarified roles of public/private sectors, provincial authorities
- Gave inputs on proposed areas/mechanisms for cross-border cooperation



2

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## Main Points Discussed (1)

- Importance of promoting intra-GMS trade
- Enhance understanding of economic corridor development approach at the local level
  - Support not only backbone infrastructure but also subsidiary routes and feeder roads in transport corridor development.
  - Improve communication facilities to enhance the role of provincial governors



3

## Main Points Discussed (2)

- Support empowerment of local governments and improvement of their operational mechanisms
  - Address security concerns; ensure law enforcement at local level (not only international laws)
  - Rationalize development of corridor towns to enhance social and economic development goals
  - Ensure environmental sustainability and climate change responsiveness of corridor development activities



4

## Main Points Discussed (3)

- Further elaborate/clarify mechanism for public-private sector cooperation; division of responsibilities to implement action plans
  - Set up of tourist information centers
  - Develop business networking arrangements



5

## Main Points Discussed (4)

- Address cross-border transport and trade facilitation issues
  - Reduce transport costs for moving goods and people
  - Support software aspects of CBTA; Standardize/harmonize customs procedures and other software aspects of CBTA implementation
  - Implement single visa, visa free arrangements



6

## Conclusions and Way Forward

- 1<sup>st</sup> Governors Forum successful. Participants benefited from active discussions, sharing of insights
- Ideas for areas/mechanisms for cross-border cooperation, roles of various players and stakeholders discussed
- Strong commitment generated on role of Governors Forum to support ECF, economic corridor development.
- Set up smaller groups of provincial authorities within countries
- Report submitted for endorsement by ECF.



7

**Thank you for your attention!**



8