

Brief Statement
by
Mr. Jadul Apichatabutra
**Chief of Inspector-General, Ministry of Interior/
Head of the Thai Delegation at Governors' Forum**
2nd GMS Economic Corridors Forum
Phnom Penh, Cambodia
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H.E. Sok Chenda, Minister to the Prime Minister
And Secretary General of the Council of Development of Cambodia,
Governor of Svay Rieng Province of Cambodia,
Mr. Arjun Thapan, Director-General, South East Asia Department,
Governors from the GMS Countries,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Thai Delegation, I would like to express our sincere appreciation for the Government of Cambodia's arrangement of the Governors' Forum today as well as their warm welcome and hospitality. Also, I would like to thank ADB for their kind assistance and supports to make this forum a successful one.

Thailand is very pleased to strongly support the establishment of Governors' Forum within the GMS framework that helps unify the work of the central and local government, which is the crucial factor of the achievement. As for Thailand, we have prepared to support the Governors' Forum in the following manners:

(1) The Ministry of Interior, in collaboration with The Office of the National Economic and Social Development Board, as national coordinator, has recently instructed and guided 24 governors of the provinces along the Economic Corridor dated the 6th of August 2009 regarding the matter.

(2) GMS has been imposed as regular agenda in the monthly provincial meeting as mechanism to publicize information and perceive preliminary views for the central government. Truly, I am confident that in the future many more Thai provinces will be enthusiastic to participate in the activities within the GMS framework. Today, we have 8 Thai governors/ vice governors and about 10 representatives from public, private and local sectors attending this forum.

Finally, I would like to confirm that all related provinces of Thailand are now ready to encourage and reinforce the work of EC so as to reach concrete outcomes, especially, in the fields of tourism, trade and investment, transport infrastructure of which system has been almost completely developed, and social cooperation for the well-being of the people. In my opinion, work at provincial level not only reflects actual problems and constraints, but also helps mobilize the cooperation from all sectors.

Nevertheless, the local government seems to have constraints in terms of efficiency and budgets. Therefore, at this stage, solid and continuing supports from the central government and ADB are inevitably required.

Thank you.