

**Greater Mekong Subregion
High-Level Public Private Sector Consultation Meeting
9-11 September 2004, Bangkok, Thailand**

Background Paper: Agriculture & Fisheries ¹

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Part I: Agriculture

I. Role of Agriculture in Myanmar National Economy

1. Myanmar Agriculture is the mainstay of national economy. Agriculture sector as a whole encompassing crop production, livestock, fisheries and forestry contributes about 42% of the GDP, 51% of export earnings and 66% of the employment of the national labor force. About 75% of the populations residing in the rural areas engage in agriculture and supplies agriculture raw products for agro-based industries.

Opportunities

2. Myanmar has the natural diversity with favorable soil and water resources to permit a wide range of tropical and temperate cropping options. There also exists an opportunity to employ the avenues essential for agricultural growth, such as area expansion, intensification and diversification.

Area expansion

3. The present cultivated area is (10.5) million ha and the country has (9.5) million ha of the existing fallow and cultivable wasteland. The government has encouraged and granted 30 years land lease to large private sector companies to develop and operate the fallow and wastelands for growing rice, sugarcane, cotton, cashew nut, oil palm and rubber and for developing livestock and fishery.

II. Goals of Cooperation in the Agriculture Sector

4. Increasingly, intra-regional trade is becoming more important as a factor in economic development and poverty reduction. The '*production for export model*' that worked in the past for the tiger economies of East and Southeast Asia is now being modified. The model is focused less on export markets in Europe and North America, and more on regional markets, with more familiar tastes and preferences of consumers in ASEAN and East Asian markets.

5. Based on successful trade and investment models evolving in the GMS, and given that most people in the GMS reside in rural areas and are engaged in agriculture, an important goal for cooperation in the agriculture sector is to have the producers of food and agricultural products become more efficient. To achieve this goal, it is necessary for public investment to be concentrated more on human resources development and institutional strengthening,

¹ Paper presented at the GMS High-Level Public Private Sector Consultation Meeting, 9-11 September 2004, Bangkok, Thailand.

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including the strengthening of the business sector, with the aim of maximizing the effectiveness of existing infrastructure and resources.

6. Recent trade statistics show that intra-regional trade is expanding, generating benefits for the rural poor, producers, and business, with the potential for significant expansion. In this context and seeking to sustain the recovery from the 1997 financial crisis, several GMS governments have already modified the familiar '*production for export model*.' The focus of production has shifted from responding to demand from European and North American markets, to demand from domestic and regional consumers whose tastes and preferences are not as diversified, thus enabling more rapid expansion of intra-regional trade. These developments demonstrate that the goal of agriculture production and agribusiness must increasingly be more responsive to the demands of regional consumers.

7. At the same time, the goal of the private sector should be to maintain a diversity of markets, including outlets for new crops and niche products in Europe, Japan, and North America, for which the GMS agriculture sector has a comparative advantage.

III. Achievements

Infrastructure achievements

8. Major investments in regional infrastructure have been made that support trade and cross-border investments among GMS Member Countries in agriculture and other sectors. Infrastructure achievements include:

- Kunming - Chiang Khong road in the GMS North-South Economic Corridor (route 3 in Lao PDR);
- Special trade zones at the China-Lao border at Boten, Luang Namtha Province, and the Lao-Thai border at Ngeun District, Xayaboury Province, Lao PDR;
- Upgrading port facilities in the East-West Economic Corridor in Viet Nam;
- Danang – Mukdahan road in the GMS East-West Economic Corridor (route 9 in Lao PDR);
- Upgrading route 2 in Lao PDR, linking Nan Province, Thailand, with Dien Bien Phu, Viet Nam, via Oudomxay Province, Lao PDR;
- Bridges crossing the Mekong River being constructed at Savannakhet / Mukdahan and planned at Pakbeng, Oudomxay Province, Lao PDR and between Houey Xay, Bokeo Province, Lao PDR and Chiang Khong, Chiangrai Province, Thailand;
- A bridge across the Huang River between Kaen Thao District, Xayaboury Province, Lao PDR, and Tha Ly District, Loei Province, Thailand;
- A bridge across the Moei River between Mae Sot District, Tak Province, Thailand, and Myawaddy, Myanmar;
- Expansion of airports in several key towns and cities in Lao PDR; and,
- Upgrading of Mekong River port facilities in Lao PDR, Myanmar, and Thailand.

Cross border agricultural production supply chain achievements

9. There are several examples of successful cross-border agricultural production supply chains in the subregion, including:

- Potatoes being produced in Champassack Province, Lao PDR for processing in Lampang, Thailand;
- Rice produced in northern Cambodia for processing in Sakaeo Province, Thailand;
- Maize and cassava produced in Houa Phan Province, Lao PDR for processing in Viet Nam;
- Tea produced in Oudomxay and Phong Saly provinces, Lao PDR for processing in Yunnan, China;

- Fruits and vegetables produced in Kayah State, Myanmar, for processing in Tak, Sukhothai, and Phitsanulok provinces, lower northern Thailand;
- Maize, soybeans, and macadamia nut trees produced in Shan State, Myanmar for processing and sale in Chiangrai and Chiangmai provinces, Thailand;
- Maize being produced in Oudomxay and Xayaboury, Lao PDR for processing in Thailand; and,
- Potatoes and castor beans being produced in Shan State, Myanmar for processing in Lampang province, and Bangkok, Thailand.

Human resources development achievements

10. The ADB and private sector have successfully conducted crossborder training programs for agriculture technicians and producers in support of crop-specific projects and agribusiness activities. Specifically:

- The Thailand based Charoen Pokphand (CP) Group and the Thai Castor Oil Company have provided training for farmers and officials from Lao PDR, Myanmar, Viet Nam, and Cambodia in Thailand in recent years.
- Most recently (March and May 2004), the GMS Working Group on Agriculture supported and facilitated the training of Lao district level agricultural extension technicians in maize production at the CP Group's maize processing and seed production facilities in Thailand, with follow up the training in Lao PDR by CP subject matter specialists in two northern provinces. CP had previously undertaken similar initiatives for technicians from Cambodia, Myanmar, and Viet Nam, on maize, rice, and other crops.
- The Thailand-based Mae Fah Luang Foundation under Royal Patronage is implementing a program to train agricultural technicians from the Myanmar Government and private sector in Thailand on aspects of cultivating improved varieties of rice, soybeans, and macadamia nut trees. Through a grant from the Thai Government, plant material, fertilizer, and follow up technical assistance also are being provided.

IV. Thrusts and Priorities

Infrastructure

11. The development of infrastructure continues to be a high priority throughout the region. Continued attention to resolving infrastructure problems will contribute to facilitating contact between and among business groups in all GMS countries. It is only through easing the movement of people and goods; increased contact, including convenient, reasonably priced, and regular tele-communications; and, access to information and markets that the trust and understanding required to do business is generated.

Information

12. The regular exchange of accurate information among members of the business communities is critical to the establishment of business joint ventures and implementation of cooperative activities among GMS countries. Increased contact will promote the exchange of information and a better understanding of market demand, consumer tastes and preferences, commercial strengths and weaknesses, and opportunities for trade and investment that can best be addressed by business joint ventures and cooperative activities.

13. Related to information also is the knowledge and understanding among traders and investors of commercial practices within each GMS country. Although trade and investment has existed between commercial groups and families in the region for centuries, a

combination of globalization, imposition of international standards, and enforcement of the rule of law have brought about changes in traditional business practices. Understanding the basic assumptions and legal framework of joint enterprises is critical to its successful implementation and realization of benefits.

Regulations and the rule of law

14. To promote joint ventures and cooperative activities in the GMS, business requires conditions that promote private sector development, including:

- Sound rules for the market (i.e., foreign exchange arrangements, rules for corporate governance, elimination of corruption, the same or similar rules for trade and investment for all interested parties, etc.)
- Macroeconomic stability
- Good physical infrastructure, such as a transport system,
- Well-functioning financial institutions
- The expectation that the rules will be adhered to both by market participants and the state (i.e., an experienced, trusted, and well-functioning judicial branch of government)
- Well defined land and property rights
- Physical access to markets
- A reasonable level of certainty about government policy
- Sound judicial and contracting systems

V. Issues and Challenges

15. Infrastructure Issues: Gaps remain in regional transport and telecommunications infrastructure networks that increase transaction costs and limit the ability of GMS agribusiness investors to collaborate, allowing them to be more competitive with other East Asian producers. The most notable infrastructure gaps is the poor condition and absence of farm-to-market roads, particularly in parts of Cambodia, Lao PDR, and Myanmar. Other infrastructure and related problems that constrain contact and cooperation among business communities include:

- Poor telecommunications, which especially affect the exchange of information among business communities;
- Lack of feeder roads to Mekong River ports and border towns that have the potential to develop into trade hubs;
- The high cost of transporting raw materials and processed products from landlocked countries like Lao PDR to market outlets through preferred ports like Bangkok.
- Absence of support for emerging trade hubs that are comprised of facilities for collection, storage, consolidation, grading, and packaging of raw materials at or near border locations prior to sale, export, or value-added processing; and,
- Absence of industrial clusters with purpose-build industrial infrastructure to support medium to large agro-processing operations.

16. Information Issues: The isolation of large areas of the GMS and the continued restrictions on information flows effectively deprives the business community (particularly small traders and investors) from learning about important regional trade and investment developments. This is the case particularly among business communities in the numerous rural towns and remote areas of the GMS. The area's rough terrain, scattered population, and underdeveloped physical infrastructure influence the small size, inward-looking perspective, and lack of vision of business.

17. Based upon research undertaken several development studies in the GMS, producers, traders, investors, and other members of the business community revealed that information about trade and investment opportunities in neighboring countries was insufficient to make sound trade and investment decisions. Specific data requirements lacking include:

- Well-organized and easily accessible data associated with subregional trade and investment opportunities;
- Knowledge of product standards and consumer preferences;
- Awareness of investment opportunities and incentives;
- Systematic information about general and seasonal availability, quality, and price of raw materials; and,
- Sharing of agricultural and agro-industrial processing research knowledge among GMS technicians.

18. Also constraining joint ventures is the willingness of government offices to share information, including technical and indigenous knowledge, out of fear of losing the competitive advantage.

19. Regulatory Issues: Recent research undertaken in the GMS has revealed a long list of procedures, both official (i.e., laws, rules, regulations, restrictions, etc) and unofficial (traditional, customary, informal, irrelevant, etc) that serve as disincentives for regional business joint ventures, cooperative activities, and cross-border initiatives. The regulatory issues most frequently mentioned by business include the following:

- Inconsistent valuation procedures for cross-border trade;
- Inconsistent procedures and regulations on cross-border imports, both temporary and permanent;
- Inconsistent standards on customs clearance procedures;
- Cumbersome trading procedures;
- Informal fees for processing and handling; and,
- Restrictions on use of vehicles in neighboring countries.

20. Education and Skill Issues: The level of education, business competency, management skills, and understanding of commercial development is significantly different among business groups in different GMS countries. The economies of Emerging Asia² that adopted a market-oriented development model during the period of rapid economic growth of the 1960s-1980s, have business communities that tend to be better educated, more experienced, visionary, open to new ideas, and less conservative (less risk averse). Nevertheless, both China and Viet Nam have recently made significant progress in catching up to the tiger economies. To their credit, the business communities have been provided with political and economic leadership, as well as the regulatory framework and enabling environment for growth led by domestic and foreign private investment. However, some GMS Member Country governments hesitate to engage the private sector. In addition, the level of education, commercial orientation, management skills, and capacity of business is less developed than in Emerging Asia.

21. The skills gap is an obstacle to the formation of joint ventures and the undertaking of cooperative activities between entrepreneurs from Emerging Asia, who have the desire and potential to collaborate and invest, and those from GMS countries still in transition. The most frequent reasons given for failures of regional joint ventures and cooperative activities include:

- Differences in attitude toward business development;
- Misunderstandings due to language;
- Promises are not kept;

² Emerging Asia comprises: Hong Kong, Malaysia, Philippines, South Korea, Singapore, Taiwan, and Thailand.

- Failure to honor contracts;
- Financial fraud as a result of greed;
- Official corruption and collusion;
- Lack of law enforcement; and,
- Frequent changes of government policies.

22. Raw Material Quality Issues: Another obstacle to the formation of agribusiness joint ventures and cooperative and cross-border production activities among GMS entrepreneurs is the quality of food and agricultural products produced by farmers in the least developed GMS countries. Agro-processing facilities and consumer markets in the Emerging Asian economies as well as in China and Viet Nam increasingly require higher quality products to meet market demand of more mature and demanding consumers. Entrepreneurs from Emerging Asia interested in food and agricultural products for export and agro-processing hesitate to join with their GMS counterparts. They recognize the difficulties they will have in sourcing a sufficient supply of high quality raw materials for value-added processing or for export. Among the major problems arising for selected products (listed in parenthesis) are the following:

- Generating a sufficient and consistent supply of raw materials for processing (e.g., fruits, vegetables, poultry);
- Quality control of raw materials or primary commodities for export (e.g., rice, cassava, rubber);
- Application of science-based technologies to maintain export quality standards (e.g., coffee; livestock; certification of shrimp and poultry);
- Post-harvest handling and value added processing at the farm level (coffee, rubber, rice);
- Use of agricultural chemicals in crop production and pharmaceuticals in livestock raising (e.g., shrimp, poultry, fruit, vegetables);
- Transporting finished products to processing facilities and ports, and shipment to export markets (e.g., corn, tomatoes, fruits and vegetables, poultry and livestock, cassava); and,
- A lack of knowledge and understanding of export markets and consumer preferences (e.g., fruits, vegetables, coffee) caused by the lack of information and awareness of packing, packaging, labelling, and the flexible credit arrangements required to overcome these difficulties (e.g., shrimp, poultry, fruit).

23. Banking and Financial Issues: The lack of adequate banking services in many parts of the GMS serve as a serious disincentive for joint ventures and cooperative activities among agribusiness investors and commodity traders. In particular, many border towns and remote areas of several of the GMS countries are deficient in financial services such as letters of credit and foreign exchange. Allocation of short-term credit is less of a problem than obtaining long-term loans. Sound credit practices are not the accepted standard. The use of collateral remains a problem because of the lack of secure property rights in many areas of the GMS. Packing and packaging credit, bridge loans, and other commercial financing services are generally unavailable in most locations outside of Thailand.

VI. Role for the Private Sector

24. The current trend toward increased globalisation and more liberal trading systems is leading to an expansion of market-based economies. This shift demands an expanded role for the private sector and the simultaneous adoption by business of improved standards of governance.

25. Poverty Reduction: A strong business sector is the key to economic growth, which is the main contributor to poverty reduction. Thailand, China and Viet Nam have each

experienced dramatic reductions in poverty, a result of commercialisation of agriculture and rapid expansion of their service and industry sectors – led primarily by private enterprise.

- Foreign capital can accelerate development, bringing with it management expertise, technology, and access to markets. Foreign direct investment (FDI) has likely been much more important to the development of Thailand, China and Viet Nam than official development assistance.
- Growth of the business sector has greatly outpaced state production in China, while in Viet Nam state and private enterprise have grown more evenly. Thailand's long-standing market approach has resulted in per capita incomes significantly higher than any other country in the Mekong Region; the incidence of poverty is slightly more than 10 per cent.
- Private enterprise, including foreign investment, can help narrow the income gap with the private sector providing private capital, technology and management expertise.

26. Productivity and Competitiveness: A strong business sector and an open market economy are essential to increasing productivity and competitiveness. Improved productivity is the foundation for improved incomes and overall living standards, and hence poverty reduction. It has been demonstrated in other regions that closed economies have lower productivity and lower living standards (in terms of both social and economic indicators) than open economies. Productivity is encouraged by competition; only by being efficient can businesses profitably market their goods. Thailand's economic miracle followed its adoption in the early 1980s of an export-based, private sector-led development strategy. Similar rapid development is now being repeated in China and Viet Nam. Increased agricultural productivity in the GMS is critical as most households are dependent on agriculture for their livelihoods. Although many households are subsistence farmers, this is changing as access to markets improves. Expanding market access - to provide more options for GMS households – is a core element of an agribusiness development strategy.

27. Economy and Effectiveness in Public Services: The business sector also can be an efficient and effective provider of public services. As demonstrated in Viet Nam, a strong enterprise sector will generate increased tax revenues and thus allow the government to increase spending on transport, education, health and other core services.

28. Business taking the lead: Technologies developed by business are in many cases significantly better than those used by governments. GMS businesses can take the lead in the following sectors:

Livestock: The private sector can take the lead in forming agribusiness joint ventures in all GMS countries in slaughterhouses, livestock feed mills, hide tanning, and processing facilities for bone meal (for use as fertilizer).

- Business in the GMS already leads in (i) livestock breeding technology; (ii) animal quarantine and inspection systems, which could be replicated in zones near border towns where livestock are exported; (iii) vaccine production and livestock vaccination programs; and, (iv) meeting high standards for meat and meat products for export.

Field crops: Regional agribusiness firms can take the lead in technology transfer for crops traded in the region.

- Agribusiness ventures are well placed to establish grain drying and storage facilities at border towns and to operate livestock feed mills. Business also can play a role in volume of sugar cane being produced in establishing sugar mills in strategic locations in the GMS, in response to supplies of cane in northern Lao PDR and Myanmar.

- Agricultural input suppliers play an important role in (i) introducing improved seed varieties to Cambodia, Lao PDR, and Myanmar from China, Thailand, and Viet Nam; (ii) training in field crop production, pre- and post-harvest production and handling technologies, and soil fertility management in China and Thailand for extension agents and farmer leaders from Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar; (iii) formulating and disseminating harmonized quality standards among GMS countries for commonly traded field crops; (iv) promoting regional understandings on prohibiting the use of dangerous agricultural chemicals on field crops; and, (v) lobbying GMS Member Country governments to eliminate tariffs on crops produced and processed through supply chain arrangements, as an incentive to promote cross-border trade and investment.

Tree Crops: GMS agribusiness firms already play a major role in producing rubber, fruit, and forest products from tree plantations in domestic markets.

- Opportunities exist for agribusiness to invest in cool store, juice processing and canning facilities, and pulp and paper mills.
- Private firms also can (i) introduce improved varieties of tropical fruit; (ii) provide training in fruit tree production and pre- and post-harvest handling technologies; (iii) collaborate to formulate and disseminate harmonized quality standards among GMS countries for fruit traded regionally; (iv) promote understanding of the use of dangerous agricultural chemicals on fruit trees; and, (v) lobby to eliminate tariffs on products derived from cross-border supply chain arrangements.

29. The private sector also can play a role in promoting the production of tea, vegetables, flowers, and organic products, including the domestication of non-timber forest products.

Part II. Fisheries

I. The Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS) fisheries sector

Overview

1. Fish plays an important role in food security and as a source of cash income for the rural people of the Greater Mekong Sub-region Nations. It also plays a major source of affordable animal protein, vitamins and minerals.
2. The GMS countries have large populations with limited resources. As such developing aquaculture is of great importance for these countries to prevent extinction of marine and freshwater species. In the mean time it is also crucial to ensure food security and to increase people's nutritional level to meet their requirements.
3. Most of the livelihoods of the rural people in the region are depending on fish and fishery products. Recently, the fisheries industries stand as a source of foreign currency income for the nation in the region.
4. In view of the sustainable development of the Mekong River Basin, the governments of Cambodia, Lao, Thailand and Vietnam had signed the agreement to cooperate in all fields of sustainable development, utilization, management and conservation of the water and related resources of the Mekong River Basin. At that time of signing that agreement, two nations from the Upper Mekong River Basin-namely China and Myanmar stand as dialogue partners with the Mekong River Commission, which also involved in fisheries management activities in the regions.
5. On 12-13 July 2003, the Special Informal ASEAN Economic Ministers Meeting was held in Jakarta and the meeting decided Myanmar be the country coordinator for agro-based and fishery sectors. Apart from this, a Summit Meeting on Economic Cooperation Strategy was held on 11-12 November 2003 in Bagan, Myanmar. The Prime Ministers from Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Thailand had participated and the Summit also agreed to enhance the cooperation in the field of Fisheries Sector. This may reflect timely to have the best opportunity to expend investment for the development of aquaculture and capture fisheries.

II. Goals of cooperation in fisheries sector

6. There is a great need for investment in development that will bring benefits as equitably as possible to all, while maintaining the ecological balance of the river basin. Fishery cooperation between and among GMS countries is to set up-
 - Long-term and steady cooperation and exchange relation with each others,
 - Sustainable resource use,
 - Allocation of resource use rights in lines with principles of good management,
 - Adequate aquatic production to meet demands,
 - Reduction of poverty among vulnerable groups which includes women in fisheries communities,
 - Developing Investment policies, and enforcing regional competition policy frame work and collaboration,
 - Aggressively pursuing greater collaboration (starting with targeted technical assistance, e-customs network)
 - Mutual recognition and enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) and
 - Common visas for skilled professionals.

III. Achievements

7. Generally, aquaculture production in the Southeast Asia compose of 38% of freshwater fish, 26% of aquatic plant, 16% of crustaceans, 12% of marine fish and 7% of mollusks. In terms of production by value, crustaceans shared 49% followed by freshwater fish at 34% of the total production. In the year 2001 the world aquaculture production was about 37.85 million mt Of which 26.05 million mt from China, 0.724 million mt from Thailand, 0.52 million mt from Vietnam were recorded. China, Thailand and Vietnam are included in the list of top 10 countries of the world aquaculture production.

8. In the Southeast Asia and China production from freshwater aquaculture shared 93% of the total production in 2001. Among GMS countries, utilization and selection of species for pond culture is varied. The most common species used are grass carp, silver carp, common carp, bighead carp, crucian carp, tilapia, rohu, catla, and mrigal. In terms of production by volume, the top 10 species listed are Giant tiger shrimp, milkfish, tilapias, common carp, *clarias* catfish, rohu, green mussel, blood cockle, barbs and gouramy.

9. Mariculture in the GMS has not had a remarkable progress except for the production of crustaceans. Giant tiger shrimp (*Penaeus monodon*) is the most preferent species in crustacean's culture for the last decades. The invasion of White shrimp (*P. vannamei*) and its massive production have challenged the position of *P.monodon* in late 1990s but thereafter has recovered in 2000s. In general it has been limited or no report available in marine finfish production.

10. Other than aquaculture, capture fisheries is an important sector for the GMS nations. As of the year 2001, the fisheries production from GMS nations are presented in table (1).

Table 1 . Fisheries Production from GMS Nations in 2001
 (Metric tons x 1000)

Country	Inland Fishery	Marine Fishery	Aquaculture
Cambodia	360.00	37.20	15.50
China	6600.00	67900.00	26050.00
Lao PDR	30.00	-	50.00
Myanmar	* 238.21	949.67	121.95
Thailand	210.00	2671.30	724.20
Vietnam	170.00	1321.10	518.50
World	8692.80	83666.30	37851.60

Source: Selected Indicators of Food and Agriculture Development in ASIA-Pacific Region 1992-2002

FAO/NACA: Asian regional trends in aquaculture and related fishery activities

* DOF, Myanmar

IV. Thrusts and Priorities

11. Among the GMS nations, Cambodia, Myanmar and Thailand are the most important inland capture fisheries countries whereas China is the world's largest producers of aquaculture. While maintaining the current achievement of aquaculture sector development the sustainable and diversified aquaculture methods based on environmental friendly practices are varied region to region. Concurrently mangrove and inland aquatic environment conservation activities focusing on sustainability of fisheries production, aiming to improve the livelihoods of the rural peoples is also standing as priority issue.

12. Hence trade and investment, infrastructure development and harmonization of rules and regulations for reducing implements to the flow of goods and people are asking immediate attention close cooperation among member countries.

V. Issues and Challenges

13. The GMS fisheries economy is heavily dependent on global fish market and trade, which largely manipulated by major importing countries such as Japan, United States and European Union. Currently major GMS export nations are being threatened by sanitary restriction on the fishery products and antidumping and shrimp embargo. It is a severe blow to the member countries. Since the analytical materials and apparatus are of high value and technology is so advance it is very far to reach by developing countries.

14. On the other hand sustainable production of fish and its products has been threatened by over exploitation, illegal fishing and poaching. Such threats create negative impact posing constraints to food security, trade, employment, income generation and poverty alleviation.

15. There are evidences of serious deterioration of aquatic environments and habitats in some countries due to the growing population and irresponsible fisheries activities likely forming a gap between fish supply and demand in the GMS Nations in future.

16. In 1997 FAO reported that most of the economically known stocks are considered to be fully exploited. Nevertheless, fishing activities are still expanding and capacity to exploit are enhancing. The most seriousness is pursuing further pressure to squeeze out from the resources already been exploited. This is one of the issues to be closely monitored and collaborated to control by all member countries.

VI. Role of private sector in GMS Fisheries

17. Small scale and stakeholders are to share responsibilities with self-awareness in fisheries management in compliant with the Code of Conduct on Responsible Fisheries. In these circumstances, the roles of fishery communities are to be empowered through -

- Education and training
- Establish appropriate associations, which represents key stakeholder groups (such as farmers association, exporter association)
- Establish the structure of stakeholder organization under national socio-economy policies and existing institutional context.
- Enforcement of fisheries laws and regulations are to be promoted so as to enhance the participation of private sector.
- Developing means and ways to provide economic incentives in private sector participation.