

**Greater Mekong Subregion  
ECONOMIC CORRIDORS FORUM  
Phnom Penh, Cambodia  
16-17 September 2009**

**I. Background**

The GMS Economic Corridors Forum (ECF) was established in Kunming, Yunnan Province of the People's Republic of China on 6 June 2008 in accordance with the directives given by the GMS Leaders at the 3<sup>rd</sup> GMS Summit held in Vientiane, Lao People's Democratic Republic on 30-31 March 2008. The ECF shall serve as the main advocate and promoter of GMS economic corridor development. More specifically, it shall:

- Raise the profile and increase awareness of the needs and priorities of GMS economic corridor development;
- Enhance collaboration among GMS forums and working groups, and among areas along the economic corridors;
- Promote coordination, networking and facilitate initiatives to develop GMS economic corridors; and
- Increase the involvement of local authorities, participation of the private sector and collaboration between the public and private sectors in GMS economic corridor development.

During its inaugural meeting, the ECF adopted the "Kunming Consensus" which, among others, (i) endorsed the terms of reference of the ECF; (ii) endorsed the basic thrusts of the strategy and action plan (SAP) for North-South Economic Corridor development (NSEC); (iii) called for the updating of the strategy and program for East-West Economic Corridor (EWEC) development and formulation of an SAP for Southern Economic Corridor (SEC) development; and (iv) encouraged the expeditious implementation of strategies and action plans for GMS economic corridor development. The second meeting of the ECF will build on the Kunming Consensus to achieve its objectives.

**II. Date and Venue**

The second meeting of the ECF (ECF-2) will be held in Phnom Penh, Cambodia on 16-17 September 2009.

Address and contact details:

### **III. Theme and Objectives**

#### **A. Theme**

The theme of ECF-2 is “*GMS Economic Corridors: Pathways to an Integrated, Harmonious and Prosperous Subregion*”. This reflects the role of economic corridors in achieving the long-term vision of the GMS as articulated in its Ten-Year Strategic Framework.

#### **B. Objectives and Expected Outcomes**

The objectives of ECF-2 are the following:

- To strengthen the platform for coordination and networking among sectors and groups involved in GMS economic corridor development.
- To draw attention to issues and concerns affecting economic corridor development, and to discuss strategies and measures to accelerate such development.
- To expand the support of provincial and local authorities to GMS economic corridor development and promote cooperation in addressing cross-border issues.
- To increase the participation of the private sector and promote public-private partnership in GMS economic corridor development.

The expected outcomes of the meeting are:

- Organization of the Governors Forum under the ECF;
- Initiation of networking arrangements among various groups—public and private—involved in GMS economic corridor development;
- Resolution supporting the expeditious implementation of strategies and action plans for developing economic corridors in the GMS; and
- Agreement on collaborative actions needed to resolve priority issues in economic corridor development.

### **IV. Participants**

ECF-2 will be participated in by (i) representatives of central government agencies (including members of GMS working groups); (ii) government officials from the provinces along the GMS economic corridors, especially from the border provinces; (iii) representatives of the private sector, including those from the GMS Business Forum, provincial chambers of commerce (or their equivalent) and key industries along the corridor; and (iv) representatives of international development organizations. The

Governors Forum will be attended principally by governors of provinces along GMS economic corridors and representatives of the private sector.

#### **V. Tentative Schedule of Activities and Agenda**

ECF-2 will be held over two days, with the Governors Forum being held on the first day and the ECF-proper meeting on the second day. A tentative program and agenda is attached.

**Tentative Program and Agenda**

**GOVERNORS FORUM**

**16 September 2009**

- |           |   |
|-----------|---|
| 0800-0830 | <b>Registration</b>   |
| 0830-0900 | <b>Opening Session</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Welcome and Opening Remarks</li></ul>  |
| 0900-1030 | <b>Session II: Overview of Economic Corridor Development</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The GMS Program</li><li>• GMS Economic Corridor Development</li><li>• Economic Corridors Forum and Governors Forum</li></ul>   |
| 1030-1045 | <b>Coffee Break</b>   |
| 1045-1215 | <b>Session III: Strategies and Action Plans for Economic Corridor Development</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Economic Corridor Development: Experience in Other Parts of the World</li><li>• Highlights of Strategies and Action Plans in GMS Economic Corridors</li></ul> |
| 1215-1315 | Lunch Break   |
| 1315-1515 | <b>Session III: Strategies and Action Plans for Economic Corridor Development (continued)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Role of Provincial Authorities</li><li>• Role of the Private Sector</li><li>• Areas of Cooperation</li><li>• Mechanisms for Cooperation</li></ul> |
| 1515-1530 | Coffee Break  |

1530-1630            **Session IV: Closing Session**

- Wrap-Up
- Adoption of Report to the Economic Corridors Forum
- Closing Remarks

**Tentative Program and Agenda**

**ECONOMIC CORRIDORS FORUM**

**17 September 2009**

0830-0900            **Opening Ceremony**

0900-1000            **Session I: Setting the Stage**

- Progress since ECF-1
- Report on the Kunming GMS Economic Corridors Logistics Fair
- Report on Proceedings of Governors Forum

1000-1015            **Coffee Break**

1015-1215            **Session II: Strategy and Action Plan for the Southern Economic Corridor**

- **Progress and Issues**
  - Transport and other infrastructure
  - Trade facilitation
  - Tourism
  - Private sector participation
  - Investment policy: promotion and support
  - Environmental and social concerns
  
- **Way Forward**

1215-1315            **Lunch Break**

1315-1500            **Session III: Strategy and Action Plan for the East-West Economic Corridor**

- **Progress and Issues**

- Transport and other infrastructure
- Trade facilitation
- Tourism
- Private sector participation
- Investment policy: promotion and support
- Environmental and social concerns

- **Way Forward**

1500-1515

**Coffee Break**

1515-1700

**Session IV: Strategy and Action Plan for the North-South  
Economic Corridor**

- **Progress and Issues**

- Transport and other infrastructure
- Trade facilitation
- Tourism
- Private sector participation
- Investment policy: promotion and support
- Environmental and social concerns

- **Way Forward**

1700-1730

**Session V: Closing Session**

- Wrap-up, Synthesis and Next Steps
- Adoption of Phnom Penh Statement on GMS Economic Corridor Development
- Closing Remarks