

Report by Chairman of GMS NTOs

1. The Meeting was chaired by H.E. Mr Tran Chien Thang, Deputy Minister of Culture, Sports and Tourism of Vietnam, attended by delegates from 6 GMS member countries. Staff members of the MTCO and ADB were also in attendance.
2. The Heads of GMS NTOs approved the financial report until 01 January 2009 which was presented by MTCO.
3. Regarding the MTCO staff, the Heads of GMS NTOs acknowledged the outcome of MTCO Executive Director which was organized in October 2008 in Bangkok and reminded him of this challenging job. The contract among GMS NTOs and he was adopted and will take effect since 07 January 2009. In response, the Executive Director expresses his commitment to fulfill the duties and responsibilities in accordance with the provisions outlined in the contract and terms of reference.
4. The Heads of GMS NTOs appreciate the French Government's support to the strengthening of the MTCO through secondment of the Project Coordinator. They also agreed to request the French Government to renew the secondment contract of MTCO Project Coordinator and tasked the Executive Director to communicate with France to seek possibilities of providing additional technical and financial support in the coming time.
5. It was also agreed to extend the contract of the MTCO Office Manager, for a period of one (1) year from 1 February 2009 until 31 January 2010.
6. Regarding the location of MTCO Office, It was agreed to maintain the location of the MTCO in Bangkok, Thailand. The meeting expressed appreciation for Thailand's willingness to continue hosting the MTCO in Bangkok.
7. The Meeting congratulated MTCO for having organized workshops, funded by ADB and the French Government, to jumpstart the implementation of priority projects under the Tourism Development Plan and develop detailed project proposals that will be presented to a development partners' meeting in 2009 to mobilize additional resources.
8. The Meeting noted the new website www.exploremekong.org dedicated to GMS tourism marketing activities will soon be officially launched to serve as an interactive platform for the Explore Mekong marketing campaign. The Meeting requests MTCO to ensure the accuracy of GMS tourism data and information and link this website with those official tourism websites of GMS member countries.
9. The Meeting tasked the newly-recruited Executive Director to prepare his work plan in 2009-2010 and submit to GMS NTOs in 4 weeks for consideration before implementation. The Meeting also tasked the Director to raise fund for the private sector for marketing activities.