

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

Greater Mekong Subregion Fourth Meeting of the Working Group on Agriculture (WGA-4) Siem Reap, Cambodia 6-8 December 2006

Introduction

1. The Fourth Meeting of the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) Working Group on Agriculture (WGA-4) was held in Siem Reap, Cambodia on 6–8 December 2006. The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of the Royal Government of Cambodia hosted the meeting in cooperation with the Asian Development Bank (ADB).
2. The theme of WGA-4 was *Strengthening Strategic Partnership for Accelerated Agricultural Development and Poverty Reduction*. The objectives of the meeting were to (i) finalize the Strategic Framework for GMS Cooperation in Agriculture and the Core Agriculture Support Program (CASP) for 2006–2010; (ii) dialogue with development partners (DPs) on resource mobilization for implementation of the CASP; and (iii) finalize the agenda and program for the GMS Agriculture Ministers' Meeting to be held in Beijing, People's Republic of China (PRC), in April 2007. A copy of the Agenda and Program of the meeting is attached as Appendix 1.
3. The participants included senior officials from the Kingdom of Cambodia, PRC, Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR), Union of Myanmar, Royal Thai Government, and Socialist Republic of Viet Nam. Also present were representatives of multilateral and bilateral organizations, regional and international organizations, and academic and research institutions. The list of participants is attached as Appendix 2.

Opening Session

4. H. E. Mr. Sou Phirin, Governor of Siem Reap Province, Royal Government of Cambodia, extended on behalf of the people of Siem Reap his warm welcome to all participants. He stated that his province realizes the importance of protecting its tourism assets—the Angkor Wat, and the Tonle Sap. He stated that the Tonle Sap, with its flooded forest and a great variety of wildlife and birds, is not just a provincial asset but also a regional resource that is closely linked to agriculture in the Mekong basin. He said that the Tonle Sap Initiative, supported by ADB, would enable the province to better manage their fisheries and watersheds, and improve the livelihoods of the poor. He wished the participants well in their discussions to finalize the Core Agriculture Support Program, with the hope that the Program would eventually bring further benefits to Siem Reap Province.
5. Mr. Urooj Malik, Director, Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources Division, Southeast Asia Department, ADB, welcomed everyone to the meeting on behalf of ADB. He expressed his deep appreciation to the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of the Royal Government of Cambodia for partnering with ADB in organizing the meeting in historic Siem Reap. He underscored the significance of agricultural cooperation as a vital component of the overall GMS economic cooperation

program and highlighted the following key points: (i) agriculture is central to poverty reduction efforts; (ii) the agricultural landscape is rapidly changing; (iii) there is a need to strengthen subregional cooperation in agriculture; and (iv) agriculture and environment are intertwined. Mr. Malik noted the interdependence of agriculture and the environment and emphasized that the directions of agriculture cooperation must be compatible with the broad objective of environment protection and sustainable use of shared natural resources. He gave a general outline of the meeting's agenda and noted the major outcomes that the meeting expected to achieve, namely: finalize the Strategic Framework and CASP for endorsement to the Agriculture Ministers' Meeting in 2007, mobilize resources from Development Partners for financing CASP activities, and finalize the agenda and program for the Ministers' Meeting in Beijing. Finally, he expressed his thanks to the Royal Government of Cambodia for graciously hosting the meeting. A copy of Mr. Malik's remarks appears as Appendix 3.

6. In his inaugural address, H. E. Minister Chan Tong Yves, Secretary of State, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of the Royal Government of Cambodia stated that GMS cooperation is of central interest to the Royal Government of Cambodia. He noted that the vision of the GMS Leaders of freeing their people from poverty and providing sustainable development opportunities for all citizens reflected the hopes and aspirations of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries for the Cambodian people. He noted that strong cooperation in agricultural science and technology, as one of the building blocks of GMS cooperation in the agriculture sector, could be seen as a central mechanism by which advances in agricultural science and technology could benefit Cambodian farmers. In turn, Cambodian farmers, especially the poor, need to be linked to subregional and regional markets, to allow them to move away from traditional, low-value commodities to nontraditional, higher-value crops and participate in niche markets. He also expressed the hope that GMS cooperation in agriculture would give priority to addressing the structural barriers that impede the flow of technology, goods, and investment in the subregion, as well as issues concerning food safety and transboundary plant and animal diseases. The Minister underscored the assistance and partnerships that Cambodia's neighbors in the GMS, ASEAN, the international community, multilateral agencies such as ADB, the private sector and NGOs have extended. A copy of his speech appears as Appendix 4.

7. Mr. San Vanty, MAFF/Cambodia, and Mr. Urooj Malik, ADB, co-chaired the meeting. The meeting was held in plenary and group sessions.

Session 1 (Plenary Session)

Draft Strategic Framework for GMS Cooperation in Agriculture and Core Agriculture Support Program (CASP) 2006–2010 (Presenter: Dr. Mahfuzuddin Ahmed, Senior Project Economist, Southeast Asia Department, ADB)

8. Dr. Mahfuzuddin Ahmed noted the changing agriculture paradigm in the GMS, with globalization accelerating a shift of focus from agriculture's traditional role in local and national food security, toward agribusiness targeting high-value products and nontraditional crops for export. He discussed the emerging issues and challenges confronting the agriculture sector, including the threat of environmental degradation, pollution of water resources, impact of climate change, threat of transboundary animal diseases, and transformation of family farms into competitive agribusiness, among others. He presented the highlights of the revised draft Strategic Framework for GMS

Cooperation in Agriculture and Core Agriculture Support Program (CASP) 2006–2010 that has incorporated the comments arising from WGA-3 held in Hue City, Viet Nam, in February 2006 and included new essential elements. He discussed the CASP's vision, key objectives, and main components and underscored the importance of partnerships in moving the CASP forward in the context of mobilizing expertise and resources and integrating CASP activities with other ongoing initiatives in the sector. Dr. Ahmed referred also to the Development Cooperation Market Place session of WGA-4 that was intended to encourage buy-in and further investment by private, public, and nongovernment sector organizations toward achieving the vision and objective of the CASP, achieve greater synergies among different programs of cooperation and assistance, and explore avenues for closer subregional cooperation in the agriculture sector. A copy of his presentation appears as *Appendix 5*, while a copy of the revised Draft Strategic Framework for GMS Cooperation in Agriculture and Core Agriculture Support Program (2006-2010) appears as *Appendix 6*.

Discussion

9. The GMS delegates unanimously approved the revised version of the Draft Strategic Framework for GMS Cooperation in Agriculture and Core Agriculture Support Program (CASP) 2006–2010 for formal endorsement to the GMS agriculture ministers, with the following minor comments:

- Emphasize the dissemination and sharing of agriculture information in building an environment conducive to public-private partnerships.
- Emphasize the role of the WGA Secretariat in facilitating the mobilization of resources to implement the CASP.
- Further emphasize capacity building of farmers and the transfer of technology to farmers to ensure that they will actually benefit from the CASP.

10. In response to a query from Thailand, Mr. Malik clarified that the WGA Secretariat would remain at ADB Headquarters and that the Secretariat would continue to facilitate the development cooperation marketplace as a mechanism for mobilizing resources to implement the CASP as one of its core activities.

Component 1: Facilitating Cross-border Agricultural Trade and Investment (Presenter: **Mr. Thomas Elhaut**, Director, Asia and Pacific Division, Program Management Department, International Fund for Agricultural Development)

11. Mr. Thomas Elhaut discussed the challenges and opportunities in facilitating GMS cross-border agricultural trade and investment. He noted the positive developments in the enabling environment, including the completion of cross-border infrastructure projects, the forging of a cross-border transport agreement, and improving trade and investment climate. He emphasized a number of elements for securing cross-border trade and growth with equity, including improvement of technology, communications and extension support for small producers; addressing the implications of land-use changes associated with contract farming; securing financial services to small producers; improving logistics and supply-chain competitiveness; and enforcing common product standards and harmonized inspection services. Mr. Elhaut presented the scope of work under Component 1 of the CASP, including the establishment of wholesale agriculture market distribution centers; setting-up a cross-border agriculture resource and market information system; formulation of clear guidelines for foreign

investment in contract farming; and harmonization and strengthening of agriculture regulatory systems covering common food safety quality standards and sanitary and phytosanitary regulations. He also discussed the role of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) in enhancing agricultural competitiveness of smallholders in the context of a contemplated IFAD-ADB Policy Agenda in support of the GMS agricultural strategy. This would cover expanding options in agricultural technology choice and expanding instruments for financing through a private sector investment fund initiative. Another initiative is enhancing agricultural competitiveness of smallholders through partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture of Thailand, IFAD, and Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations. Activities include pilot projects to enhance competitiveness of smallholders for selected commodities, dissemination of pilot project experiences, program management, and strategic assessment. Mr. Elhaut also discussed policy issues in cross-border contract farming, including the potential advantages and risks for contract farmers, and the associated regulatory, logistical, financial, land-use changes; research and extension support; security and contract enforcement; and other constraints. A copy of his presentation appears as Appendix 7.

Discussion

12. Mr. Ronald Antonio Butiong, Program Economist (GMS), ADB, mentioned the Cross Border Transport Agreement that the GMS countries have signed and ratified, which covers, among others, single stop inspection procedures in compliance with established international conventions on the movement of live animals, plants, and ornamentals to ensure that agricultural goods are adequately inspected while facilitating cross-border transit.

13. Participants agreed that contract farming presents an opportunity to improve the livelihood of poor farmers and emphasized the need for capacity building and technology transfer for farmers in order to organize small farmer producers and change their orientation from food security and self-sufficiency to business by improving the quantity and quality of their products for the export market, and for close coordination among the government, private sector (businesspersons), and farmers.

Component 2: Promoting Public-Private Partnerships in Sharing Agricultural Information

Introduction (By: Mr. Ian Makin, Project Engineer [Water Resources], Southeast Asia Department, ADB)

14. Mr. Makin introduced this component by presenting an overview of knowledge transfer in agriculture, from the tried and tested person-to-person transfer of knowledge as the basis for agricultural development through the development of new tools and techniques, the evolution of a huge knowledge base, the growth of the internet, and the consequent information explosion and overload that have now prompted access to relevant knowledge to be as simple as possible through information and communication technology (ICT) application. He discussed the role of ICT in knowledge management and how to make knowledge work for farming communities by making research knowledge accessible and timely market information available, and by improving quality and relevance of extension services. He also emphasized public-private partnerships for sharing agricultural information considering that state of the art ICT systems are

promoted and managed by the private sector. Mr. Makin mentioned the priority projects under Component 2 of the CASP. A copy of his presentation appears as Appendix 8.

GMS Agriculture Information Network Service (AINS) (By: Mr. Han Gao Ju, Director General, Foreign Economic Cooperation Center, Ministry of Agriculture, PRC)

15. Mr. Han Gao Ju outlined the objectives of the AINS project, namely: (i) to provide up-to-date information on agriculture in the GMS; (ii) to support increased exchange of information; and (iii) to foster increased intraregional trade of agricultural produce and value-added products. He mentioned that the main activities are the setting up of AINS on the internet and the establishment of an information network system for cooperation in agriculture among the GMS countries. He briefed the participants about the current status of the project and emphasized certain aspects that require improvement. These include the incomplete set-up of the website and simple functions that have limited the attraction of the website. Also, the lack of financial input from some GMS countries has prevented the establishment of sub-sites. Finally, inadequate information network systems among the GMS countries have affected implementation of the network's operating capabilities. Mr. Han outlined the next steps to move the project forward, including the conduct of research on the construction and sustainable development of AINS; holding meetings of the AINS Working Group; and organization of technical training workshops and expert consultations. He underscored the need to effectively maintain and improve the functions of AINS, provide hardware facilities to ensure the website's operation, and promote development of functional modules. He also suggested the following: (i) future technical assistance from ADB to complete construction of the AINS; (ii) GMS countries to provide financial support for relevant national-level activities; and (iii) international organizations and private institutions to share their intellectual property rights with the GMS countries. A copy of his presentation appears as Appendix 9.

Discussion

16. The PRC representative thanked ADB and GMS countries for their support to the AINs project and emphasized the need for the GMS countries to provide information about agriculture in their country in the database and to work together toward having the AINs website interconnected with the websites in each country to facilitate accessibility.

17. Mr. Malik commended the intellectual and financial leadership that PRC has provided on the AINs project and emphasized the need to ensure region-wide operability of the database system as suggested at WGA-3.

18. Mr. Makin stressed the need to replicate, populate, and disseminate the AINs database and involve the people in the relevant GMS ministries to make the project viable and get the information to those who need it.

Component 3: Enhancing Capacity in Agricultural Science and Technology

Introduction (By: Dr. Arsenio Balisacan, Director, Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture {SEARCA})

19. Dr. Arsenio Balisacan introduced this component by emphasizing the need to ensure the availability of a reliable supply of skilled and competitive human resources to enable the GMS countries to cope with the demands of a global economy, speed up regional economic integration, and achieve sustainable development. He outlined the key areas for (i) short-term training in new and advanced technologies, agricultural competitiveness and rural development; (ii) comparative overseas studies; (iii) graduate studies; and (iv) related priority projects under the CASP. He emphasized the need to continue upgrading human resources skills and knowledge as well as the higher education system by developing centers of development and excellence that could host visiting experts and serve as venues for study tours and farmers' visits. Given resource constraints, he stressed the importance of institutional partnerships and linkages with FAO, SEARCA, and Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) centers. Dr. Balisacan also noted the critical role of the private sector in research and extension, sustainable management of natural resources, and helping farmers prepare for globalization. A copy of his presentation appears as Appendix 10.

A. Advanced Agricultural Science and Technology (AAST)

- (i) *Presentation by Mr. Trinh Khac Quang, Deputy Director, Department of Science and Technology, Viet Nam*

20. Mr. Trinh Khac Quang presented Viet Nam's achievements in agriculture: high agricultural growth, increased market orientation, improved income and living standards, improved rural infrastructure, gains in forest protection and recovery, shift from food deficiency to national food security and surplus, and high ranking in global export of several commodities. He outlined the main challenges and constraints the country faces, including underdeveloped rural infrastructure, low competitiveness, small farm size, lack of investment in research and development of postharvest technology and biotechnology, and lack of market information and international trade experience. Mr. Trinh discussed how ADB-funded RETA 6214 on Strengthening Capacity and Regional Cooperation in Advanced Agricultural Science and Technology (AAST) is contributing to meeting those challenges and achieving the set targets for agriculture by (i) promoting basic awareness about AAST, (ii) strengthening technical capacity of relevant research institutions, and (iii) enhancing appropriate policy and regulatory frameworks for biotechnology and food safety issues. He also described the road map for agricultural biotechnology in Viet Nam from 2006 to 2020. A copy of his presentation appears as Appendix 11.

- (ii) *Presentation by Dr. Apichart Vanavichit, National Center for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology Central Laboratory, Kasetsart University, Thailand*

21. Dr. Apichart Vanavichit mentioned several agricultural constraints in the GMS, including dependence on lowland rainfed agriculture, extreme environmental conditions, widespread impacts of diseases and insects, depletion of biodiversity, and pollution caused by improper agricultural practices. He outlined the main focus of the ADB-funded RETA 6214 on Strengthening Capacity and Regional Cooperation in Advanced Agricultural Science and Technology (AAST), including biotechnology and science capacity, bio-safety and food safety risk assessment, and environmental risk management. He described the ongoing project's major activities which cover basic

awareness-raising on the benefits and risks of AAST, advanced technical training (6 courses held in 2006), access to information (technical assistance website, links to other websites and databases, e.g., Asia BIONET), regional dialogue on common strategy and country action plans, and support for enhanced policy and regulatory frameworks. Based on the project's experience, Dr. Apichart emphasized the need for horizontal coordination between national environment and agricultural agencies with regard to policy, regulatory, and implementation responsibilities as well as between the subregional entities concerned, namely, the GMS Working Group on Environment and WGA. Horizontal coordination and harmonization strategies at the national and subregional levels were deemed important for developing core standards and procedures as well as common systems and information exchange for food safety, biosafety, environmental risk assessment procedures, and awareness programs. He described a preferred alternative harmonization strategy for effective biotechnology and AAST management that would first develop common a subregional framework and modules for food safety, biosafety, and environmental risk assessments, from which customized country approaches for training and capacity building and essential infrastructure could evolve. He underscored the requirement for additional investment. A copy of his presentation appears as Appendix 12.

Discussion

22. Various participants emphasized the need to train agricultural leaders beyond research and development specialization to a multidisciplinary perspective that includes innovation and commercialization processes—particularly in light of prevailing emphasis on globalization and regional integration. With regard to the emphasis on enhancing the capacity of farmers, participants noted that the development of centers of excellence and the training of trainers could eventually reach more farmers and have better multiplier effect.

B. Rural Renewable Energy: Bioenergy and Biofuel (Presenter: Dr. Sar Chetra, Acting Chief, Animal Production Office, Department of Animal Health and Production, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Cambodia)

23. Dr. Sar Chetra gave an overview of bioenergy and biofuels as rural renewable energy. He discussed the various types of biofuels, categorized by source as wild-harvest, agricultural wastes (either from farms or agro-processing by-products), and energy crops, and classified bioenergy-use technology as either traditional or modern. Traditional technologies involve very rudimentary processing, such as use of wood or production of charcoal, while modern technologies involve methane recovery from animal waste and processing of crop extracts. He noted that in the GMS in general, the lower the per capita income, the greater the dependence on traditional fuels like fuelwood, which, however, are time-consuming, costly for the rural poor, and harmful to the environment and to human health. He noted that development of biofuels as a source of rural renewable energy requires a shift from traditional biomass to modern methods of farmed energy. He highlighted biogas as a particular biofuel technology that works and is making a big improvement in the lives of the rural poor in the GMS. He presented the example of a biodigester for producing biogas financially and technically supported by Guangxi Province, PRC, for a farmer in Cambodia. PRC is transferring its biogas technology not only to Cambodia but also to Lao PDR, and Myanmar. Mr. Sar Chetra also outlined some future directions for the development and widespread dissemination of biofuels as rural renewable energy and emphasized requirements for

financial support to farmers, community regulations on backyard pollution and waste disposal, and forest protection. He also emphasized sustainability through market development. A copy of his presentation appears as Appendix 13.

Panel Discussion on Rural Renewable Energy

24. A panel discussion on Rural Renewable Energy was held. The panelists were:

- **Dr. Rod Lefroy**, Regional Coordinator, Centro Internacional de Agricultura Tropical (CIAT) in Asia
- **Mr. Thomas Elhaut**, Director, Asia and Pacific Division, Program Management Department, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
- **Dr. Suhas P. Wani**, Principal Scientist (Watersheds) and Regional Theme Coordinator, International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics
- **Dr. Samai Jai-In**, Energy Specialist, National Metal and Materials Technology Center, National Science and Technology Development Authority, (NSTDA), Thailand.
- **Dr. Mahfuzuddin Ahmed**, Senior Project Economist, Southeast Asia Department, ADB.

25. Dr. Lefroy discussed trends in production and use of biodiesel and bioethanol. He noted the significant demand for exports, particularly for cassava imported by PRC for bioethanol production. He discussed developments in cassava production for bioethanol over the past 20 years, resulting from improved agronomy and market development. He also discussed future challenges related to further increases in yield and improved continuity of supply.

26. Mr. Elhaut emphasized the poverty reduction dimension of rural renewable energy and noted the linkage between the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and access to local decentralized energy supply systems. He noted the upward trends in investments in clean energy, related business opportunities, and research and their implications on pro-poor energy production and poverty reduction. He highlighted other considerations, including processing technologies that promote economies of scale, energy sources that require minimal modification/adaptation of existing equipment/engines, policy perspectives on decentralized energy supply systems, transfer of technologies, and social capital organized around energy sources. He mentioned policy issues to support pro-poor choices, e.g., those concerning competition between food production and energy production and competition for land. He emphasized the importance of technology transfer and information transfer networks.

27. Dr. Suhas Wani spoke on food and energy security issues related to biofuels and described the poverty-food security-land degradation nexus, where water is a key issue. He discussed a biofuel strategy for developing countries to enhance the share of renewable energy without compromising food security that involves, among others, the rehabilitation of degraded lands, improvement of water use efficiency, and people-centric biofuel development. He also discussed experiences in jatropha and pongamia for oil production in India, initiatives under the aegis of ICRISAT for institutional arrangements to benefit landless people, production of sweet sorghum instead of sugarcane as a source for ethanol, current biofuel scenarios, a strategy for operationalizing a biofuel

initiative, unintended impacts (food security, prices of food, and impact on poverty), and competing demands for natural resources, including water.

28. Dr. Samai Jain-In discussed biofuels development in Thailand and a strategy to change from a hydrocarbon economy to a carbohydrate economy through biofuel development to offset the substantial foreign exchange for fuel imports. He presented the Royal Chitralada Projects and the national policy for ethanol program in Thailand, road map for ethanol, trends in ethanol production capacity, worldwide increase in ethanol for fuel, and implications for Thailand as a potential major producer (after Malaysia and Indonesia) of ethanol from cassava and molasses from sugarcane. He mentioned that Thailand is committed to help other ASEAN and GMS countries.

29. Mr. Ahmed wrapped up the panel discussion and noted that biofuels offer a win-win-win-win situation, that is, for the environment, for the rural poor in terms of expanding income and employment, for countries' energy security, and for the governments. He stated that the GMS agriculture cooperation strategy must help the GMS countries realize the promise of biofuels and address challenges related to gaps in technology, policy, and capacity. He noted that the way forward is to make significant investments but first a thorough assessment of market potential needs to be done. Second, technologies should be developed, identified, and pilot tested in field trials. Third, policy support should be extended to assist GMS countries at the national and regional levels. He noted the dearth of cost-competitive information and revenue projections for investments in biofuels and mentioned the ongoing consultations between IFAD and ADB on a private investment fund for biofuels as part of the CASP, for which a scoping study will be undertaken shortly. He suggested a two-pronged strategy: to assess the market through national-level consultations and organize a forum to examine policy issues and the capacity of smallholders to respond to the emerging trends, among others.

Component 4: Establishing Emergency Response Mechanisms for Agricultural and Natural Resource Crises

Introduction: By Dr. Subhash Morzaria, Chief Technical Adviser, Food and Agriculture Organization – Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific

30. Dr. Morzaria introduced Component 4 and discussed the types of emergencies in agriculture (spread of animal diseases, pest infestations of crops) and natural resources (floods, forest fires, tsunamis). He noted the overlap between components 1 and 4, in the context of trade in livestock. He explained the impacts of transboundary animal diseases (TADs), particularly of the Asian bird flu crisis and its human and economic dimensions, and noted that trade in livestock has played an important role in secondary transmission of the disease. He discussed the role of international organizations, particularly in the context of current and emerging global framework and partnership, in responding to the threat of TADs. Dr. Morzaria stated that the goal of the FAO Global Framework for Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs) is to safeguard the livestock industry in both the developed and developing world from repeated shocks of infectious disease epidemics. The strategy involves progressive control at source. He underscored the importance of financial resources from donors to support the global TADs control efforts. GF-TADS views TADs control as an international public good, emphasizing capacity building for farmers and village health

workers, veterinary capacity building, and early detection and response. Dr. Morzaria noted the key implementation aspects of GF-TADs as catalyst to national government initiatives as well as those of regional/subregional organizations, and for promoting private sector investment. He underscored the importance of partnerships among national governments, regional organizations, and international organizations/centers. A copy of Dr. Morzaria's presentation appears as Appendix 15.

Transboundary Animal Disease Control (Presenter: Dr. Wacharaporn Chotiyaputta, Senior Veterinary Officer, Department of Livestock Development, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Thailand)

31. Dr. Wacharaporn Chotiyaputta noted the importance of TADs control in the GMS as contributing to poverty alleviation. He briefed the participants about developments relating to Phase I of ADB-funded RETA 6192 on Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases in the GMS, July 2005–July 2007. The project is focusing on a regional cooperation mechanism under ASEAN, the formulation of national and regional policies for TADs control, the establishment of national and regional disease information systems as well as laboratories and their networks, capacity building in disease control at all levels, improved control of TADs, increased safe trade in livestock, and reduced poverty among farmers. He mentioned that the MOU for Cooperation to Prevent and Control TADs in the GMS signed during the 2nd GMS Leaders' Summit held in July 2005 in Kunming, PRC, as well as the Kunming Declaration on HPAI Control adopted by Asian nations in November 2005, were significant developments in TADs control. Dr. Wacharaporn explained the institutional mechanisms and collaboration arrangements for setting up disease control zones in the Upper and Lower Mekong regions. For Phase II, he recommended funding of \$3 million over 2 years to implement pilot projects, including Myanmar as participating country, use of HPAI funding to strengthen long-term physical and personal capacity, and facilitating multi-donor partnership for long-term financial sustainability. A copy of his presentation appears as Appendix 16.

Discussion

32. Mr. Malik mentioned the PRC's funding for Phase II under the PRC Poverty Reduction Fund and invited other donors to consider providing additional financing for the project.

33. The meeting noted OIE's initiative to establish a trust fund for TADs control for ASEAN and the political commitment of ASEAN countries for regional collaboration in TADs control.

Component 5: Strengthening Institutional Linkages and Mechanisms for Cooperation (Presenter: Dr. Eliseo R. Ponce, Regional Coordination Specialist, RETA 6324, ADB)

34. Dr. Eliseo Ponce discussed the rationale for Component 5 in terms of providing synergies among the participating GMS countries, focusing on partnerships and linkages, promoting cooperation in priority areas identified by WGA, and serving as the glue and pivot for making the CASP work. He presented the key elements of RETA 6324 on Expansion of Subregional Cooperation in Agriculture in the GMS funded by PRC and ADB. He outlined the intended impact and expected outcome as well as the major activities and priority projects to be pursued. He mentioned the anticipated major outputs

of the technical assistance project, including enhanced capacities for improved coordination among the GMS countries; increased cross-border agriculture trade and investment; development of policies/programs for regional agricultural cooperation and competitiveness; and an operational GMS Agriculture Information Network Service (AINS). He described the overall coordinating structure involving the designated WGA Coordinators in the GMS countries and the catalytic role that the WGA Secretariat would play to provide the desired synergism in the implementation of the CASP. A copy of his presentation appears as Appendix 17.

Discussion:

35. In response to queries from PRC and Thailand regarding the mandates of the WGA Secretariat and its relationship with ADB, Mr. Malik explained that the WGA Secretariat would remain located at ADB as with the other GMS working groups and that weaning it from ADB would be done gradually and at the appropriate time when the required capacity and resources become available in the GMS countries. He clarified that the Environment Operations Center (EOC) based in Bangkok serves as Secretariat to the GMS Working Group on Environment and manages the substantial assistance received from the Swedish and Dutch governments, as well as additional financing from USAID and ADB to implement the Core Environment Program. He said that the EOC is co-located at ADB's Thai Resident Mission and is not entirely independent of ADB.

36. Concerning funding for the further development of the AINs under RETA 6324, PRC noted the importance of having additional investments for training courses, surveys, and workshops to enhance capacity building of the GMS countries in this field. Mr. Malik suggested that other development partners, besides ADB, could perhaps consider contributing financially or in kind.

36. In response to Viet Nam's observation about the need to ensure complementation in the programming of GMS priority projects with the national priorities of the GMS countries, Mr. Butiong explained that the leitmotiv of the GMS Program is to think regionally, act nationally, and that efforts are being done to ensure that the GMS Program priorities are consistent with the country strategy and program. He said that the GMS Unit is involved in both the Regional Cooperation Strategy and Program (RCSP) and Country Strategy and Program (CSP) processes to ensure greater synergy between regional and country programs. He noted that the GMS countries have been putting emphasis on the regional cooperation dimension in their country programs. He stressed, however, that resources are scarce, hence the need to prioritize projects.

The Agriculture Sector in the Context of Developments in the GMS Economic Cooperation Program and 10-Year GMS Strategic Framework (Presenter: Mr. Ronald Antonio Butiong, Programs Economist (GMS), Regional Cooperation and Country Coordination Division, Southeast Asia Department, ADB)

37. Mr. Butiong gave an overview of developments in the GMS, including increasing trends in GDP and expanding openness ratio, and dramatic decline in poverty. He highlighted the GMS vision, developments in the GMS Program and the various priority sectors and flagship programs. He emphasized the significance of the Core Agriculture Support Program in the context of its direct interface and nexus with the other priority sectors, including trade (associated regulatory systems for agricultural products and services, biosafety and food standards), transport (cross-border agricultural trade and

the need for multimodal transport, logistics), environment (land use/management, sustainable use of shared natural resources), tourism (eco-tourism), energy (rural renewable energy, dams for hydropower and impact on agricultural production systems), telecommunications (application of ICT for agricultural supply-chain management, capacity building, research and extension services), and human resources development (HRD) (in impact of transboundary animal and plant diseases on human health, capacity building and skills competencies in agriculture). He emphasized the need to promote closer coordination and linkage between WGA and the other sectoral working groups to ensure synergy and complementation of programs and activities. Mr. Butiong mentioned ADB's funding support to the GMS Program, which, as of mid-2006, has amounted to US\$6.5 billion for infrastructure projects and US\$148 million for technical assistance projects, including those under the agriculture sector. He also discussed the emerging new directions for the GMS Program based on the initial findings of an on-going mid-term review of the GMS Strategic Framework. He noted that the components of the CASP that seek to address the priority concerns for agricultural development of the GMS countries—individually and collectively—are in tune with these emerging new directions under the GMS-Strategic Framework. Finally, Mr. Butiong explained the significance of the Development Cooperation Market Place and the prospective role and support of the development partners in implementing the CASP, which would feed into the updating of the GMS development matrix as a tool for project programming. A copy of his presentation appears as Appendix 18.

Discussion:

38. In response to a comment to ensure that the GMS Program becomes truly responsive to the various changes taking place in the subregion consequent to increased connectivity, Mr. Butiong stressed the GMS Program's holistic approach to development, hence the 9 priority sectors and the increasing focus on intersectoral coordination. He explained that in the case of the environment, for example, the Working Group on Environment (WGE) is mandated to participate in the Energy, Transport, and Tourism working groups to ensure that environmental dimensions are appropriately taken into consideration in their deliberations. In HRD, negative externalities associated with connectivity are being addressed, hence the priority attention given to communicable disease control, labor and migration, and trafficking.

39. Mr. Malik elucidated further the holistic approach under the GMS Program and mentioned that the WGE has identified points in the GMS economic corridors where the biodiversity initiatives would be linked. Coordination is being done with the Mekong River Commission regarding the environmental dimensions in hydropower planning to ensure that these are incorporated in project design and discussed with the countries. He stressed that implementation of regional projects is done at the national level. He noted that the working group meetings serve as venue for discussion. Thus, national anchors have the opportunity to discuss the negative externalities of connectivity.

40. Cambodia suggested that land degradation be included in the RCSPU in addition to flood management and mitigation and that prevention of trafficking should include not only girls but children in general.

41. Mr. Butiong welcomed OIE's offer of support to the GMS Program and their interest to work with the Working Group on Trade Facilitation, get actively involved in the implementation of the Cross-Border Transport Agreement to address increasing

connectivity and associated increase in animal movement and livestock trade and the issue of TADS where much capacity development and establishment of testing facilities at border areas are needed, and assist the subcommittee on sanitary and phyto-sanitary standards.

42. In response to the World Vegetable Center (AVRDC) comment to emphasize the humanitarian dimension and the linkage of the GMS Program to the poor rural people, Mr. Butiong stated that achieving the GMS vision is an ongoing process and that efforts are being done to ensure that the GMS Program ultimately benefits the GMS people and minimizes the disparity between the rural and urban areas. He cited the results of initial surveys on the positive effects and benefits of regional cooperation accruing to the poor people in the GMS. Initial findings are that cross-border trade is vitalizing border areas through increased imports, and there are higher agricultural yields due to access to technology and availability of cheap goods, benefits to people in the hinterlands of access and feeder roads, and significant differences in living standards between participants and nonparticipants in cross-border activities.

43. IFAD emphasized the need for WGA to catch up with the older working groups and for the CASP to have a holistic agenda that highlights agricultural specificities, reflects the priorities of the countries, and ensures sustainability.

44. Mr. Malik called on the GMS countries to ensure that the CASP truly becomes imbedded in their respective country programs and get supported by soft and hard lending schemes. Toward this end, the WGA coordinators need to work internally with their relevant ministries/authorities.

Session 2: Development Cooperation Market Place

Plenary Session: Introduction and Overview on the Development Cooperation Market Place (By: Dr. Mahfazuddin Ahmed, ADB)

45. Dr. Ahmed briefed the participants on the goal, objectives, and guidelines of the Development Cooperation Market Place that was organized to bring together and engage stakeholders in agriculture development in the GMS countries in productive dialogue that would lead to innovative partnerships toward the implementation of the CASP. He outlined the 3 broad themes to be covered and the steps involved for the guidance of the participants. A copy of his presentation appears as Appendix 19.

Group Sessions

46. After the briefing, the participants broke into 3 groups for the Development Cooperation Market Place, with designated Conveners and Co-conveners as follows:

Theme 1: Toward a New Agricultural Paradigm in the GMS
Convener: **Dr. Samai Jain-In**, NSTDA, Thailand
Co-convener: **Mr. Ganesh Thapa**, IFAD

Theme 2: Preparing for Agricultural and Natural Resource Emergencies and Disasters: a Subregional Approach
Convener: **Mrs. Nguyen Thi Tuyet Hoa**, MARD, Viet Nam

Co-convenor: **Dr. Subhash Morzaria, FAO**

Theme 3: Developing Human and Institutional Resources for Agricultural Competitiveness

Convenor: **Mr. Han Gau, Ju, MoA, PRC**

Co-Convenor: **Dr. Arsenio M. Balisacan, SEARCA.**

Plenary Session

Summary Report Presentations on Development Cooperation Market Place

Theme 1

47. Mr. Ganesh Thapa, IFAD, presented the summary report for Theme 1 (Appendix 20.a.) that covers priority projects in biofuels, cross-border trade (value chains, food safety, contract farming), natural resources management and agriculture, and knowledge sharing. These projects altogether require a total funding of \$30,865,000.

Theme 2

48. Dr. Subhash Morzaria, FAO, presented the summary report for Theme 2 (Appendix 20.b.) covering priority projects on transboundary animal diseases and natural disasters, with total funding requirement estimated at \$7,500,000.

Theme 3

49. Mr. Han Gao Ju, PRC, presented the summary report for Theme 3 (Appendix 20.c.) covering priority projects on developing human and institutional resources for agricultural competitiveness, with total funding requirement estimated at \$4,520,000.

50. In summary the Development Cooperation Market Place arrived at a total estimated cost of US\$42,885,000 for the implementation of the CASP priority projects.

Discussion

51. The Meeting requested the WGA Secretariat to streamline the list of projects and thresh out the overlaps and duplications noted in some of the proposals. In light of limited resources, the Meeting emphasized the need for better integration, improved coordination, and enhanced synergies, particularly where bodies of knowledge from related research and ongoing work are available.

Statements by Development Partners

52. Representatives of development partners expressed their appreciation to ADB for giving them the opportunity to participate in the meeting. They also expressed their interest to actively collaborate and partner with the GMS countries in implementing the CASP through their respective existing programs and available resources. They suggested the need for the Secretariat to prioritize the CASP projects in view of limited resources and emphasized that the CASP projects need to be rationalized and harmonized with the respective country programs and priorities. They noted that while some of the projects could be funded bilaterally, there is need to examine how to bring

out the regional dimension and components of the priority projects as well their environmental tradeoffs.

Wrap-up and Recapitulation of Development Cooperation Market Place

53. Mr. Malik summarized the outcome of the Development Cooperation Market Place, which arrived at a total estimated cost of \$42,885,000, including a loan component of \$10 million, to implement the CASP. He stressed that without the required resources, the Strategic Framework and CASP are meaningless; hence, the emphasis given to resource mobilization. He requested the WGA Secretariat to identify the funded and unfunded components, and prepare a matrix to reflect this information that will form part of the WGA-4 Summary of Proceedings to be sent eventually to participants for their comments. He remarked that the whole exercise was intended to identify the country priorities and confirm that these mesh with the regional priorities and that indeed the CASP reflects the regional dimension of cooperation. He stated that the next step would be to bring the Strategic Framework and CASP to the Agriculture Ministers' Meeting in April 2007 in Beijing, PRC.

Session 3 Closing Session

54. Mr. Urooj Malik summarized the results of the Meeting, as follows:

- formally approved the Strategic Framework and CASP for endorsement to the GMS Agriculture Ministers' Meeting;
- successfully concluded the 1st Development Cooperation Market Place and identified suitable partnerships to implement the priority projects; and
- generated goodwill and active interest and support among the participants.

55. It was agreed that the next working group meeting, WGA-5, will be held toward the end of 2007 in Lao PDR. The dates and venue will be determined later.

56. In his closing remarks, Mr. Malik expressed his sincere thanks to all delegates and participants for their active participation in the meeting and to the WGA Secretariat and support staff from the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Cambodia for their assistance.

57. The delegates expressed their sincere thanks to the ADB for organizing the meeting and to the Kingdom of Cambodia for the hospitality and excellent arrangements for the meeting.

**Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS):
Fourth Meeting of the Working Group on Agriculture (WGA-4)
Angkor Palace Resort and Spa, Siem Reap, Cambodia**

6-8 December 2006

Theme: Strengthening Strategic Partnership for Accelerated Agricultural Development and Poverty Reduction

Annotated Meeting Agenda/ Program

(All sessions will be co-chaired by Cambodia and ADB)

Tuesday, 5 December 2006

Arrival of Participants

Setting up of exhibits, other materials by Participants outside Royal Ballroom (to be confirmed with hotel staff)

1330- 1530 Meeting of Presenters (Venue: Secretariat Room)

1530- 1630 Meeting of Conveners & Co-Conveners (Venue: Secretariat Room)

1700- 1800 Meeting of Heads of Delegations and ADB (Venue: Private Dining Room [PDR], Angkor Palace Resort and Spa)

1845 All participants gather at hotel lobby for transport to Angkor City Hotel.

1900- 2000 Welcome Dinner for Participants hosted by H. E. Minister Chan Sarun, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Royal Government of Cambodia (Venue: Angkor City Hotel)

Wednesday, 6 December 2006

0830- 0900 Registration

Inaugural Session

(Venue: Royal Ballroom)

0900- 0930 **Welcome and Opening Remarks**

Introduction by:

Mr. San Vanty

Deputy Director General

Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

Royal Government of Cambodia

Opening Remarks by:

Mr. Urooj Malik

Director
Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources Division
Southeast Asia Department, Asian Development Bank

Inaugural Address by:

H.E. Chan Tong Yves

Secretary of State, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
Royal Government of Cambodia

0930- 1000 Group Photo and Coffee Break

Session 1

1000- 1010 Brief Introduction of Delegates

1010- 1030 ***Draft Strategic Framework for GMS Cooperation in Agriculture and Core Agriculture Support Program (CASP) 2006-2010 (Overview by: Dr. Mahfuzuddin Ahmed, Senior Project Economist, Southeast Asia Department, ADB)***

WGA-3 held in Hue City, Viet Nam in February 2006 endorsed in principle a Draft Strategic Framework for GMS Cooperation in Agriculture and Core Agriculture Support Program for 2006-2010. Since then, the draft Strategic Framework and CASP have been revised to (i) incorporate the comments arising from WGA-3; and (ii) include new essential elements to further flesh out the strategic directions and priority projects under the CASP.

This session will allow in-depth and more rigorous and focused discussions of the CASP components in order to firmly and concretely establish agreement not only by the WGA but also by interested development partners. This will help foster strong ownership of the elements of the Strategic Framework and CASP by WGA and concrete commitment for mobilization of resources by key stakeholders to ensure eventual operationalization and implementation.

Dr. Ahmed will present the highlights of the revised draft Strategic Framework and CASP. This will be followed by presentations on the key components consisting of brief introductions by invited resource persons and specific representative initiatives under the CASP. The presentations will cover, briefly, ongoing initiatives in the GMS and, more comprehensively, the forward-looking directions of cooperation.

Component 1: Facilitating Cross-border Agricultural Trade and Investment

Component 1 explores mechanisms for increasing subregional agricultural trade and investment, such as coordination and establishment of wholesale agriculture markets and distribution centers in border areas, cross-border agricultural resource and market information systems, and guidelines or regulations for conduct of foreign direct investment in contract farming. There are needs for policy support, and adoption of common food safety and quality standards, and sanitary and phytosanitary regulations.

1030- 1045 *Presentation by: **Mr. Thomas Elhaut**, Director, Asia and Pacific Division, Program Management Department, International Fund for Agricultural Development*

Mr. Elhaut's presentation will briefly cover the opportunities for cross border trade and investment and their potential impact to growth and poverty reduction. He will also discuss potential areas of cooperation for the GMS countries, putting emphasis on areas where IFAD can provide funding support.

Component 2: Promoting Public-Private Partnerships in Sharing Agricultural Information

Component 2 deals with ways to enhance public- private sector partnerships in the exchange of agricultural information for mutual benefit. The GMS Agricultural Information Network Service is the main focus of the thrust, which also builds on two regional technical assistance projects being implemented by the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) in close cooperation with other Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) centers, Centre de cooperation internationale en recherche agronomique pour le developpement (CIRAD) and relevant agencies in the subregion.

1045- 1055 *Introduction by: **Mr. Ian Makin**, Project Engineer (Water Resources), Southeast Asia Department, ADB*

Mr. Makin's will outline the range of information and communication systems for capturing and making relevant agriculture-related information widely available in the GMS countries. It will provide a framework that will establish links and interoperability with databases that are being developed through a number of GMS projects such as those under CIRAD's Agrimek Platform, IRRI's Rice Knowledge Bank, as well as potential activities under the e-Asia Fund. It will cover modalities and the application of technology (e.g. cellphones) for getting information shared down to the village level and to farmers.

1055- 1110 **GMS Agriculture Information Network** (Presentation by: **Mr. Han Gao Ju**, Director General, Foreign Economic Cooperation Center, Ministry of Agriculture, PRC)

Mr. Han will discuss the current status of the project and future plans and resource requirements for further development and expansion, including the launching of the agriculture information website during the GMS Agriculture Ministers' Meeting in April 2007.

Component 3: Enhancing Capacity in Agricultural Science and Technology

Component 3 intends to catalyze and coordinate existing initiatives, and promote regional new initiatives, in capacity building in agricultural competitiveness and agricultural water resource management, mainly through mobilizing resources for the development of existing institutions by designating them as centers of excellence or centers of development. It will promote rural renewable energy sources through demonstrations and extension activities in biogas and biofuel technology and research and development in biotechnology and biofuels using advanced science and technology..

1110- 1120 *Introduction by: **Dr. Arsenio M. Balisacan**, Director, Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (SEARCA)*

Dr. Balisacan will discuss the need for strong and high quality agricultural human resource to help sustain the development of the agriculture sector. Capacity building has to take on new challenges of promoting system thinking and expanding capabilities in the use of advanced tools, such as biotechnology, to further increase productivity, improve quality and effectively manage natural resources. Additionally, it has to help strengthen public and private sector partnership in key development activities that help enhance the sector's competitiveness especially with the region's increasing participation in the world market.

A. Advanced Agricultural Science and Technology

(Presentations by:

1120- 1130 1. **Mr. Trinh Khac Quang**, Deputy Director, Department of Science and Technology, Viet Nam; and

1130- 1140 2. **Dr. Apichart Vanavichit**, National Center for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology Central Laboratory, Kasetsart University, Thailand)

ADB approved in December 2004 a TA project RETA 6214 on Strengthening Capacity and Regional Cooperation in Advanced Agricultural Science and Technology for \$ 1 million to support regional cooperation and capacity building in advanced agricultural science and technology (AST) with particular emphasis on agricultural biotechnology and food safety issues. The TA aims to (i) promote basic awareness about advanced AST and related food safety issues among key stakeholders in the GMS countries; (ii) strengthen technical capacity of the relevant research institutions; and (iii) enhance appropriate policy and regulatory frameworks for biotechnology and food safety issues. Mr. Trinh will discuss Viet Nam's country experience and perspective in the implementation of the project while Mr. Apichart will discuss the highlights of the TA Interim Report, particularly the regional perspective of project achievements in capacity building of the relevant research staff and institutions in the GMS countries, and the future strategy and the program for the remaining period of the TA.

1140- 1200 Discussion

1200- 1330 Lunch

1330- 1345 **B. Rural Renewable Energy: Bioenergy and Biofuel** (By: **Mr. Sar Chetra**, Acting Chief, Animal Production Office, Department of Animal Health and Production, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, **Cambodia**)

Conventional energy systems are based on fossil fuels, such as crude oil, whose current high prices show the limited scope of expanding global supplies against escalating global demand. This places modern energy systems further out of reach of the rural poor in the GMS, who now currently rely on traditional biofuels. An alternative would be to promote modern forms of bioenergy as a source of rural renewable energy. These include biogas from animal waste, and biofuel from energy crops. Prospects for modernization of biofuels in the GMS are promising, though several issues need to be resolved, such as: development and commercialization of new technologies, improving the business climate for these technologies, and designing policy and institutional frameworks for land use, cross-border trade, contract farming, cooperation, and market support.

1345- 1430 Panel Discussion on Rural Renewable Energy

There will be a 45-minute panel discussion on Rural Renewable Energy. The panelists will discuss related issues including (i) institutional, technology, and capacity issues for small holders; (ii) policy support for cross-border agreements on land use; and (iii) investment issues for the private sector. The panelists will consist of the following:

- **Dr. Rod Lefroy**, Regional Coordinator, Centro Internacional de Agricultura Tropical (CIAT) in Asia
- **Mr. Thomas Elhaut**, Director, Asia and Pacific Division, Program Management Department, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
- **Dr. Suhas P. Wani**, Principal Scientist (Watersheds) and Regional Theme Coordinator, International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT)
- **Dr. Samai Jai-In**, Energy Specialist, National Metal and Materials Technology Center, National Science and Technology Development Authority, (NSTDA), Thailand.
- **Dr. Mahfuzuddin Ahmed**, Senior Project Economist, Southeast Asia Department, ADB

Component 4: Establishing Emergency Response Mechanisms for Agricultural and Natural Resource Crises

Component 4 focuses on the need for collective response mechanism to agriculture-related emergencies, calamities, and natural disasters and to address the spread of animal disease, floods, pest infestation, and forest fires that result in huge economic losses within the GMS. The main activities concern transboundary animal disease control and establishing a disaster preparedness, mitigation, and emergency response system for agricultural crises.

- 1430- 1440 *Introduction by **Dr. Subhash Morzaria**, Chief Technical Adviser, Food and Agriculture Organization – Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific.*

Dr. Morzaria will introduce this component and discuss the impact of transboundary animal diseases (TADs) to date as well as FAO's global framework for the progressive controls of TADs..The recent experiences in Asia with the Avian flu make it imperative for countries to synchronize their efforts to control spread of animal disease and to respond to agriculture-related emergencies, calamities, and natural disasters.

- 1440- 1455 **Transboundary Animal Disease Control (By: **Dr. Wacharaporn Chotiyaputta**, Senior Veterinary Officer, Department of Livestock Development, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, **Thailand**)**

In response to the need for a strong, cooperative subregional effort to control transboundary animal diseases (TADs), an FAO-ADB project, The Control of Transboundary Animal Disease in the GMS, has been formulated that will develop national and regional policies supporting TAD control especially among poor livestock communities in GMS; establish regional and national disease information systems; and build capacity in TAD control by training veterinarians, technicians, extension workers, and farmers, and upgrading the technical capacity of regional diagnostic centers. Dr. Wacharaporn will discuss the progress of the project, particularly the status of the regional cooperation framework in the control of TADs in the GMS. He will also present the plans for Phase II of the project in the context of providing support to poor livestock communities in the subregion.

Component 5: Strengthening Institutional Linkages and Mechanisms for Cooperation

Component 5 concerns the need to capture the benefits of improved agricultural institutional and infrastructure linkages. It involves promoting partnerships in priority areas, sharing best practices and research results, and exchange of information with stakeholders in the private (including farmers), public, and nongovernment organization sectors, as well as development partners and international centers of excellence. It also involves strengthening institutional capacities by developing appropriate procedures and protocols among GMS countries.

- 1455- 1510 *Presentation by **Dr. Eliseo R. Ponce**, Regional Coordination Specialist, RETA 6324, ADB.*

Dr. Ponce will present the expected impact, outcome, methodology and key activities under a new technical assistance project RETA 6324 Expansion of Subregional Cooperation in Agriculture in the GMS, approved by ADB in June 2006 amounting to \$1 million, with co-financing from the PRC's Regional Cooperation and Poverty Reduction Fund. The TA aims to accelerate and expand subregional cooperation in agriculture by promoting partnerships in priority areas identified by WGA.

1510- 1530 Coffee Break

1530- 1700 Discussion

EVENING FREE

Thursday, 7 December 2006

Session 2 (whole day)

Development Cooperation Market Place

The objectives of the whole-day Development Cooperation Market Place are: (i) to encourage buy-in and further investment by private, non-government and public sector organizations toward achieving the vision and objectives of the Core Agriculture Support Program (CASP); (ii) to achieve greater synergies among respective programs of cooperation and assistance; and (iii) to explore avenues for closer subregional cooperation in the agriculture sector. Invited development partners will identify their specific topics of interest in the GMS agriculture sector, and indicate how their programs and available resources (intellectual and material) could be tapped to support the implementation of the CASP. A more detailed concept note on the mechanics for this session is provided in a separate flyer.

Participants are encouraged to bring with them exhibit materials (e.g. videos, posters, banners, brochures, leaflets, and other printed materials) that would enhance the interactive discussions and matching and buy-in process for interested partners. Participants are requested to coordinate with the WGA Secretariat on the topic and format of the materials they would like to bring. Ideally, the exhibit materials are to be set up on the eve of the Meeting at the area to be designated by the Secretariat.

This session will be divided into morning and afternoon sessions:

*(i) The **morning session** will allow free-wheeling and interactive discussions among WGA delegates, Development Partners (DPs) and resource persons on specific topics under the CASP that are of mutual interest. The interactions will be held in 3 separate rooms corresponding to the 3 main clusters of themes under the CASP. Each thematic market place will be coordinated by designated **convener/co-convener** who will facilitate interaction among the participants.*

Summary reports on the Development Cooperation Market Place will be presented by the Conveners/Co-conveners to the plenary session in the afternoon.

*(ii) The **afternoon session** will be held in **plenary** and will also feature formal statements/presentations by key Development Partners on envisioned/potential partnerships to implement the Strategic Framework and CASP priority projects.*

0830- 0840 **Plenary Session: Introduction and Overview on the Development Cooperation Market Place** (By: **Dr. Eliseo R. Ponce**, Regional Coordination Specialist, RETA 6324, ADB.

(Venue: Royal Ballroom)

Dr. Ponce will brief the participants on the objectives, mechanics, and expected outputs of the Development Cooperation Market Place.

0840- 1000 **Break-out Groups: Development Cooperation Market Place**

The three main themes of the Development Cooperation Market Place, their respective conveners/co-conveners and venues are as follows:

- (i) **Theme 1: Toward a New Agricultural Paradigm in the GMS**
(cross-border trade and investments, food safety and food standards, rural renewable energy, contract farming, market information system, agricultural supply chain management, public-private partnerships in knowledge sharing)
 Convener: **Dr. Samai Jain-In, NSTDA, Thailand**
 Co-convenor: **Mr. Thomas Elhaut, IFAD**
 Venue: Aspara Pavilion
- (ii) **Theme 2: Preparing for Agricultural and Natural Resource Emergencies and Disasters: a Subregional Approach**
(transboundary animal diseases, plant infestations, tsunami, floods, forest fires, GIS-based disaster preparedness, mitigation, and emergency response, private sector investments in mitigation)
 Convener: **Mrs. Nguyen Thi Tuyet Hoa, Viet Nam**
 Co-convenor: **Dr. Subhash Morzaria, FAO**
 Venue: Lotus I
- (iii) **Theme 3: Developing Human and Institutional Resources for Agricultural Competitiveness**
(investments in agricultural capacity building and research, linkages with development partners and centers of excellence, private sector partnerships/assistance in training in new technologies for biotechnology, biofuels, contract farming, etc.)
 Convener: **Mr. Han Gau Ju, PRC**
 Co-convenor: **Dr. Arsenio M. Balisacan, SEARCA**
 Venue: Lotus II

1000- 1010 Coffee Break

1015- 1200 Continuation of Development Cooperation Market Place

1200- 1330 Lunch

Afternoon Plenary Session

(Venue: Royal Ballroom)

1330- 1345 **The Agriculture Sector in the Context of Developments in the GMS Economic Cooperation Program and 10-Year GMS Strategic Framework** (Presenter: **Mr. Ronald Antonio Butiong**, Programs Economist (GMS), Regional Cooperation and Country Coordination Division, Southeast Asia Department, ADB)

The presentation will discuss recent developments in the GMS Economic Cooperation Program, the on-going review of the 10-year GMS Strategic Framework, recent directions concerning the 3rd GMS Summit scheduled in 2008, the continuing updating of the GMS Development Matrix, and the important role of the Development Partners in the evolving strategic partnerships to advance subregional cooperation in the agriculture sector.

1345- 1400 Discussion

1400- 1430 **Summary Report Presentations on Development Cooperation Market Place** (By: **Designated Conveners/Co-Conveners**)

Designated Conveners/Co-Conveners will present brief reports on the outcome of their respective discussions at the Development Cooperation Market Place to the Plenary Session, following a prescribed outline and set of guidelines for presentation to be provided by the Meeting Secretariat.

1430- 1500 Discussions

1500- 1515 **Recapitulation of Development Cooperation Market Place**
By: **Dr. Mahfuzuddin Ahmed**, Senior Project Economist, Southeast Asia Department, ADB

1515- 1530 Coffee Break

1530- 1630 **Statements by Development Partners** (5-10 minutes each)

Selected Development Partners will be invited to make (i) brief statements on their respective contributions of resources in support of the GMS coordinated agriculture development strategy; and (ii) share their respective views on some of the issues and the way forward to advance subregional cooperation in the agriculture sector.

1630- 1715 Discussion

Session 3 Closing Session

1715- 1745 Summary of Meeting's Results

Venue, Tentative Date of WGA-5

Closing Remarks by Co-Chairs

Adjournment

1900- 2100 Farewell Dinner hosted by ADB
(Venue: Aspara Pavilion – Hotel Garden)

Friday, 8 December 2006

0800- 0930 **Closed WGA Executive Session**

The closed WGA Executive Session will be attended by GMS Delegates and ADB Staff/Consultants. All other participants are free or may choose to wait at the hotel lobby until the closed WGA Executive Session is over and join the rest of the delegates for the field visits.

(Venue: Royal Ballroom)

Preparations for GMS Agriculture Ministers' Meeting, April 2007, Beijing

- (i) Draft Concept Note
- (ii) Draft General Outline of Activities
- (iii) Draft Provisional Agenda, Senior Officials' Meeting
- (iv) Draft Provisional Agenda, GMS Agriculture Ministers' Meeting
- (v) Draft Joint Ministerial Statement
- (vi) Draft Joint Press Statement or Draft Press Release
- (vii) Media Plan
- (viii) Logistics and Administrative Arrangements

At this closed session, the GMS delegates and ADB will discuss the status and finalize preparations for the GMS Agriculture Ministers' Meeting rescheduled to 10-12 April 2007, Beijing. PRC and ADB will jointly brief WGA-4 on recent developments. WGA will review the above items in detail with the view of having additional comments/inputs incorporated in the revised versions of the documents to be subsequently circulated to the GMS countries.

0930 Depart hotel for field visit, meeting place at hotel lobby.

1000- 1200 Field visit

1200 Return to hotel

1230- 1330 Lunch at hotel

Afternoon Free

Saturday, 9 December 2006

Departure of Delegates/Participants

**Greater Mekong Subregion
Fourth Working Group Meeting on Agriculture (WGA-4)
6-8 December 2006, Siem Reap, Cambodia**

List of Participants

GMS Countries

Cambodia

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Secretary of State of Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Royal Government of Cambodia

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