

Subregional Working Group on Human Resource Development: Terms of Reference

Initiation

The Subregional Working Group on Human Resource Development (WGHRD) was established under the GMS Economic Cooperation Program to serve as an advisory body on subregional HRD projects. The WGHRD reports to the Ministerial Conference and to the respective governments.

Rationale

The establishment of the WGHRD responds to the need for a forum that will promote and facilitate cooperation in human resource development among the GMS countries. The WGHRD facilitates the implementation of priority subregional HRD projects and contributes to strengthening HRD in other sectors.

Main Objectives

The WGHRD has the following objectives:

- Promote investment in people, especially through improved education, training, and health services, and to improve the efficiency of labor markets in the subregion;
- Identify and prioritize key human resource issues and problems that affect the subregion, particularly those that may constrain the competitiveness of the region's workforce and those that extend beyond the boundaries of the individual GMS countries;
- Provide a vehicle for dissemination and exchange of information on human resource development matters among regional governments, and international organizations;
- Provide a mechanism for facilitating the identification and implementation of priority subregional projects in human resource development;
- Promote the financing of subregional projects by the governments concerned, the donor community, and the private sector;
- Provide a venue for addressing the human resource development requirements of subregional projects in other sectors;
- Monitor and assist in the coordination and implementation of priority subregional projects; and
- Help ensure complementarity between subregional and country HRD programs and projects.

Membership

Each GMS country is represented by four persons to the WGHRD core group. One representative is a senior official involved with policy and planning from the Government agency responsible for human resource development, and the other three representatives are senior officials from the health, education, and labor ministries.

Chairperson and Venue

The position of Chairperson rotates among the participating countries, and is linked to the venue of the WGHRD meeting. The Chairperson, who is selected among the members of the core group, provides the necessary logistical support for WGHRD activities.

Frequency of WGHRD Meetings

The WGHRD in principle meets once a year, depending on its work program.

WGHRD Meetings Held

- Seventh Meeting (WGHRD-7), 17-18 May 2006, Hanoi, Viet Nam
- Sixth Meeting (WGHRD-6), 21-22 April 2005, Phuket, Thailand
- Fifth Meeting (WGHRD-5), 16-17 June 2004, Yangon, Myanmar
- Fourth Meeting (WGHRD-4), 5-6 September 2002, Vientiane, Lao PDR
- Third Meeting (WGHRD-3), 15-16 November 2000, Kunming, Yunnan Province, People's Republic of China
- Second Meeting (WGHRD-2), 1-2 June 1999, Phnom Penh, Cambodia
- First Meeting (WGHRD-1), 5-6 December 1996, ADB Headquarters, Manila, Philippines