

Subregional Transport Forum: Terms of Reference

Initiation

The Subregional Transport Forum (STF) was initiated under the GMS Economic Cooperation Program to serve as an advisory body to the Ministerial-level Conference on subregional transport projects and issues. The STF reports to the Ministerial Conference and the respective governments.

Rationale

The establishment of STF responds to the need for a forum that will identify and realize opportunities for extended cooperation in the transport sector among the GMS countries. The STF is expected to facilitate the implementation of priority subregional transport projects. It is also expected to address issues affecting both hardware and software aspects of the subregional transport systems, thereby promoting favorable conditions for cooperation in the transport sector so that future initiatives can be successfully implemented.

Main Objectives

The STF has the following objectives:

- Provide a vehicle for the coordination of project planning at the macro level (e.g., studies covering multiple countries);
- Provide a mechanism for facilitating the implementation of priority subregional projects;
- Provide a venue for addressing software issues (e.g., issues related to driver and vehicle registration, route licensing, axle load regulations, design standards);
- Promote the financing of subregional projects by the governments concerned, various donors, and the private sector;
- Facilitate training projects and other human resource development initiatives in the transport sector; and
- Provide a vehicle for dissemination and exchange of information on transport-related matters.

Membership

Each GMS country is represented by two persons at the senior operational level at the STF core group. Additional official(s) are invited to attend STF meetings, depending on the issues to be discussed.

Chairperson and Venue

The venue (host country) for STF meetings is rotated among the participating countries in alphabetical order. A member of the STF core group from the host country serves as the Chairperson of STF. The Chairperson provides the necessary technical,

administrative, and coordinating support for STF activities. In the initial years, ADB will assist in facilitating STF deliberations in the capacity of associate or Co-Chairperson.

Frequency of STF Meetings

The STF meets at least once a year or more frequently depending on its work program.

STF Meetings Held

- Seventh Meeting, 20-21 August 2002, Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam Sixth Meeting, 17-18 May 2001, Vientiane, Lao PDR Fifth Meeting, 3-4 November 1999, Bangkok, Thailand
- Fourth Meeting, 14-15 May 1998, Vientiane, Lao People's Democratic Republic
- Fourth Meeting, 14-15 May 1998, Vientiane, Lao People's Democratic Republic
- Third Meeting, 12-13 December 1996, Kunming, Yunnan Province, People's Republic of China
- Second Meeting, 9-10 August 1995, Phnom Penh, Cambodia
- Inception Meeting, 24-25 April 1995, Yangon, Myanmar