

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE COMPLETION REPORT

Division : SEID

TA No., Country and Name: TA 6195-REG: Greater Mekong Subregion Transport Sector Strategy Study		Amount Approved: \$950,000 Revised Amount: n/a	
Executing Agency: Asian Development Bank	Source of Funding: Technical Assistance Special Fund	Amount Undisbursed: \$45,322.87	Amount Utilized: \$904,677,13
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<p>Description</p> <p>The GMS Program was initiated in 1992 to strengthen the economic linkages among Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Thailand, Viet Nam, and Yunnan Province and Guangxi Autonomous Region of the People's Republic of China (PRC). The goal of the GMS Program is to facilitate sustainable economic growth, create jobs, and reduce poverty by mobilizing the comparative advantages of the participating countries for mutual benefit. From the start, integration of the transport sector was seen as a corner stone in achieving this and a master plan for the GMS transport sector was agreed in 1995. The master plan called for the development of five GMS transport corridors linking the subregion's member countries by road. By 2005, which was the planning horizon of the master plan from 1995, all corridors were in various stages of construction for completion by the end of the decade.</p> <p>At the GMS summit of leaders held in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, in November 2002 the leaders expressed their vision of an integrated, prosperous, and equitable GMS which, at the 12th Ministerial Meeting of the GMS, held in Dali, Yunnan, PRC, in September 2003, was substantiated by the countries calling for the formulation of a new strategy to further enhance connectivity, competitiveness and the sense of community after 2006. In response, ADB included the GMS Transport Sector Strategy Study in the GMS Regional Cooperation Strategy and Program 2004–2008.</p> <p>Expected Impact, Outcome and Outputs</p> <p>The expected impact is enhanced subregional economic cooperation. The outcome is adoption of a strategy for development and enhancement of an integrated transport network in the GMS in the years 2006-15. The output is a multimodal transport sector strategy study for the GMS providing an agreed strategy for enhancing integration of the GMS transport network and a prioritized and time bound action plan outlining 31 high priority investment projects, 30 reform and policy actions and 10 human development interventions. The human development interventions will, at the behest of the GMS countries, be implemented primarily through subregional training programs delivered by those member countries that have demonstrated the best subregional practices in the area concerned. The agreed strategy has been adopted by all GMS countries. The TA design was relevant and timely and its objectives, terms of reference, executing arrangements, implementation schedule and formulation were appropriate.</p> <p>Delivery of Inputs and Conduct of Activities</p> <p>The activities of the TA included: (i) extensive consultation with the stakeholders; (ii) analysis of current and likely future subregional transport demand in terms of location, magnitude and type of services; (iii) identification and analysis of the causes of supply constraints and constraints to connectivity and exchange; (iv) based on this, identification of a prioritized list of intervention encompassing investment projects, policy initiatives, human development programs and institutional actions for implementation in the years 2006–2015; and (v) dissemination of the study's results.</p> <p>A consultant firm was recruited on 9 March 2005 to implement the TA. The interim report was submitted and discussed at the 9th GMS Subregional Transport Forum, held in Beijing, PRC during June 1-2, 2005. National workshops were held in each of the GMS countries during July – September 2005, where representatives from government and civil society were consulted on country specific issues and on the proposed list of priority projects. Based on this a draft report was submitted in November 2005, which was discussed at a special session of the GMS Subregional Transport Forum, held in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam on 8-9 December 2005. The final report was approved at the 10th Meeting of the GMS Subregional Transport Forum held in Vientiane, Lao PDR on 21-23 March 2006. All GMS countries actively contributed to TA implementation and cooperated effectively with the consultant in providing data and information. ADB participated as co-chair at the meetings of the GMS Subregional Transport Forum and ensured close coordination with the GMS countries during the implementation of the TA.</p>			

The TA consultants worked effectively to produce analysis of good quality that enabled the GMS countries and ADB to assess and approve the proposed GMS Transport Sector Strategy and time bound action plan for implementing physical and non-physical interventions without delay. The consultant's effectivity and productivity, and the quality of the consultant's inputs to the process were satisfactory. An extension of the TA was granted to ensure that the consultant remained available if needed while the GMS Governments reviewed the strategy prior to adopting it by letter, and to enable the project to produce a condensed summary for public distribution which includes an interactive CD-rom providing detail on the proposed investment program. The GMS countries have expressed their appreciation of ADB's participatory approach to implementation of the TA. ADB's performance as the executing agency for the TA is highly satisfactory. The performance of the consultant is rated satisfactory.

Evaluation of Outputs and Achievement of Outcome

The outputs of the TA were produced efficiently, were of satisfactory quality and were delivered on time. The outcome of the TA, an agreed GMS Transport Sector Strategy has been adopted by the Governments by individual letter to ADB and the GMS Transport Sector Strategy Study document was finally endorsed at the 14th GMS Ministerial Meeting held in Manila on 19-21 June 2007. The targets and indicators set in the design and monitoring framework have been achieved.

Implementation and monitoring of the GMS Transport Sector Strategy is undertaken by the GMS Subregional Transport Forum through annual progress reports submitted by the member countries. Recognizing that many of the GMS economies are developing rapidly, the GMS Subregional Transport Forum review the prioritized action plan biannually and update it as required to reflect new developments and changes in requirements. The impact of the TA will not be known until after 2015 but early indications are that its impact is satisfactory.

Overall Assessment and Rating

The TA was relevant and effective in achieving its outcome. Overall, the TA is rated as highly successful.

Major Lessons

The TA included extensive collection of data, analysis of subregional transport demand and analysis of the constraints facing subregional traffic. This greatly facilitated identifying key areas for improvement and assisted developing the strategy and action plan in a participatory manner, by informing the discussions between the various stakeholders. This secured unanimous adoption of the resulting strategy and action plan by the GMS member countries.

Recommendations and Follow-Up Actions

Further TA is recommended to support the regional institutional strengthening by providing support to implementation of capacity building and technical skills components, full implementation of the GMS Cross Border Traffic Agreement, and instituting reform in the GMS member countries.

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