

GOVERNORS FORUM

Draft Terms of Reference

1. Introduction

A Governors Forum shall be established within the Economic Corridors Forum (hereinafter referred to as the ECF). The detailed terms of reference (hereinafter referred to as the TOR) of the Governors Forum is set forth below.

2. Purpose and Tasks

The Governors Forum shall complement the ECF in the promotion of economic corridor development in the GMS. Its main purpose is to raise awareness, increase participation and secure commitment of the governors (or their equivalent) of the provinces along the GMS economic corridors to the development of economic corridors in the GMS. The Governors Forum shall be a mechanism for facilitating cooperation among said officials in the pursuit of economic corridor development. More specifically, the Governors Forum shall:

- (i) Provide a platform for networking among the governors (or their equivalent) of the provinces along the East-West Economic Corridor, North-South Economic Corridor and Southern Economic Corridor (hereinafter referred to EWEC, NSEC and SEC, respectively);
- (ii) Serve as a venue for exchange of information and sharing of experience on strategies, approaches and measures to promote economic corridor development;
- (iii) Highlight issues and concerns in the development of economic corridors and discuss possible ways and means of addressing such issues and concerns;
- (iv) Consider possible actions to resolve issues that arise in the implementation of strategies and actions plans for economic corridor development;
- (v) Bring to the attention of the ECF issues that need resolution at the central level;
- (vi) Assist in resolving issues that arise in implementing approved cross-border initiatives in respective areas;
- (vii) Promote private sector participation in cross-border development; and
- (viii) Discuss opportunities for cooperation among provinces along the GMS economic corridors to promote economic corridor development.

3. Status

The Governors Forum shall be a mechanism for networking and exchange of information and experience on GMS economic corridor development among governors (or their equivalent) of provinces along the GMS economic corridors. It shall be

constituted as a sub-group within the Economic Corridors Forum (hereinafter referred to as the ECF).

4. Participants and Chairmanship

The main participants in the Governors Forum shall be the governors (or their equivalent) and other concerned senior executives of provinces along EWEC, NSEC and SEC. The Governors Forum may invite other participants, such as those from the private sector (including the GMS Business Forum) to its meetings, depending on the program and agenda of such meetings.

The chairperson of the Governors Forum shall come from the host province. A vice chairperson who shall come from the host of the next meeting of the Governors Forum (if this is known at the time of the meeting) may be designated.

5. Frequency of Meetings

Being a sub-group of the ECF, the frequency of meetings of the Governors Forum shall be the same as the ECF. The Governors Forum could be convened one day before the meeting of the ECF meeting, with the proceedings of the Governors Forum being presented at the ECF meeting.

6. Venue of Meetings

The venue of the Governors Forum shall be the same as those of the meetings of the ECF.

7. Work Program and Secretariat Support

The Governors Forum in coordination with the ECF shall prepare its work program to achieve its objectives.

ADB shall initially provide the necessary secretariat support to the Governors Forum together with the GMS National Coordinators.

8. Financing

Being a sub-group of the ECF, financing of meetings of the Governors Forum shall be borne by the country and/or province hosting the meeting to the extent possible. ADB and other international organizations may be requested by the host country to provide the necessary assistance to the Governors Forum.

9. Reporting

Results of deliberations of the Governors Forum shall be transmitted to the ECF.

10. Review

The TOR of the Governors Forum shall be reviewed periodically. If deemed necessary, amendments may be made in the TOR to make the Governors Forum more effective in achieving its objectives.