

## TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE COMPLETION REPORT

Division: MKOC

<b>TA No. and Name:</b> RETA 6032: Technical Assistance for Support to the Greater Mekong Subregion Summit of Leaders and Related Activities			<b>Amount Approved:</b> US \$500,000 <b>Revised Amount:</b>	
<b>Executing Agency::</b> Asian Development Bank		<b>Source of Funding:</b> TASF	<b>TA Amount Undisbursed:</b> \$43,705	<b>TA Amount Utilized:</b> \$ 456,295
<b>Approval</b> 17 May 2002	<b>Signing</b> N/A	<b>Date</b> <b>Fielding of Consultants</b> 20 October 2002	<b>Original</b> 30 Nov 2004	<b>Completion Date</b> <b>Actual</b> 20 Nov 2004
			<b>Original</b> 30 Nov 2002	<b>Closing Date</b> <b>Actual</b> 31 October 2005

### Description:

The RETA was to prepare for and implement the first GMS Summit. This included preparatory meetings including SOM and Ministerial meetings for the GMS Summit, preparation of a development matrix, provision of advisory and technical support services to the host government, identification of emerging regional and global challenges affecting the GMS region, information dissemination through publications and media relations and conduct of workshops to follow-up the Summit meeting.

### Objectives and Scope

The broad objectives of the TA were to: (i) further the process of subregional cooperation in the GMS by providing support to key inputs and activities that would ensure success of the GMS Summit, (ii) promote the visibility of the GMS program as a model for regional cooperation, and (iii) reinforce the partnerships and commitment among the GMS countries at the highest political level. In specific terms, the TA was designed to implement the 10 year GMS Strategic Framework and flagship programs/projects by preparing a GMS development matrix as a basis for setting priorities and mobilizing development resources, identifying new themes and emerging issues to be considered for discussion by the GMS Leaders Summit, and to assist Cambodia host the Summit.

### Evaluation of Inputs

The GMS Senior Officials and Ministers met to review preparations and discuss the agenda and issues for the first GMS Summit (Phnom Penh, 3 November 2002). They also conducted the necessary country consultations, which served as inputs for the GMS Development Matrix, the GMS strategic programs and project interventions, as well as the preparation of the draft Summit declaration. The TA financed preparatory activities for the Summit events and program. It also provided support for convening the GMS Task Force and advisory and technical services as required by the host government. The performance of the international and domestic consultants, hired individually to render advisory and technical services was very satisfactory.

### Evaluation of Outputs

The RETA fulfilled targeted objectives in ensuring preparatory arrangements for the Summit and in identifying issues and challenges facing the program. It significantly contributed to establishing a strong and effective strategic basis for similar programs and activities in the future.

The first ever GMS Summit was a very successful event and raised the visibility and effectiveness of the GMS Program to a new level. It confirmed the support of the GMS governments in terms of ownership of the GMS Program at the highest political level. This led to the articulation, in the Joint Summit Declaration (JSD), of a shared vision of the Mekong as a subregion that is more integrated, prosperous and equitable. The first GMS Summit set a precedent for future GMS Summits in terms of producing a strategic document (the JSD) and in bringing together the Government Heads of the GMS countries toward a common goal of advancing the subregion's shared vision through the GMS Program.

The RETA also produced specific outputs for the first GMS Summit that would later have a lasting impact on the GMS Program. It supported the formulation of the GMS Development Matrix, which includes priority GMS projects that comprise the GMS Flagship Programs that are being pursued to achieve the objectives of the 10-year GMS Strategic Framework. The Matrix is used as a regional planning tool and information base for the GMS governments, and as a source of financing possibilities for development partners and the private sector. The RETA also supported regional consultations on priority HRD areas of cooperation, which led to the preparation of the Phnom Penh Plan for Development Management (PPP). PPP has since evolved into a unique program for improving the efficiency and effectiveness of development management in the GMS.

The RETA closing was delayed to undertake key Summit follow-up actions and activities.

**Overall Assessment and Rating**

Overall the RETA is assessed to have been successful as its objectives were achieved and its envisioned outputs were delivered. It contributed significantly to the successful preparation and implementation of the first Summit of GMS Leaders for which necessary programs and activities were supported and financed. Work in the various GMS sector working groups and forums made significant progress as a result of the clear guidance provided by the GMS Summit. The experience gained and the lessons learned through the implementation of the TA were used to prepare the second GMS Summit held in July 2005.

**Major Lessons Learned**

- (i) Regional cooperation efforts are far more effective and coherent if political leadership at the highest levels guide the program. The first GMS Summit, as the major outcome of this RETA, was key to the acceleration of cooperation among the GMS governments.
- (ii) The implementation arrangements adopted for the RETA provided excellent opportunities for closer interaction and mutual learning between ADB and the host government.

**Recommendations and Follow-Up Actions**

The planning and implementation of future GMS Summits can be an integral part of the GMS umbrella RETA that supports the coherent planning and implementation of the GMS Program.

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