



# Technical Assistance Report

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Project Number: 51178-001  
Knowledge and Support Technical Assistance (KSTA)  
October 2017

## Sustaining the Gains of Regional Cooperation in the Greater Mekong Subregion (Cofinanced by the Regional Cooperation and Integration Fund)

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Asian Development Bank

## ABBREVIATIONS

ADB	–	Asian Development Bank
GMS	–	Greater Mekong Subregion
RIF	–	Regional Investment Framework
SERD	–	Southeast Asia Department
WGF	–	working group and forum
TA	–	technical assistance

## NOTE

In this report, "\$" refers to United States dollars.

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## KNOWLEDGE AND SUPPORT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AT A GLANCE

1. Basic Data		Project Number: 51178-001	
<b>Project Name</b>	Sustaining the Gains of Regional Cooperation in the Greater Mekong Subregion	<b>Department /Division</b>	SERD/SERC
<b>Country</b>	REG, CAM, PRC, LAO, MYA, THA, VIE	<b>Executing Agency</b>	Asian Development Bank
2. Sector		Subsector(s)	
✓ Public sector management	Public administration	<b>ADB Financing (\$ million)</b>	
Agriculture, natural resources and rural development	Agricultural policy, institutional and capacity development	0.62	
Education	Technical and vocational education and training	0.10	
Energy	Electricity transmission and distribution	0.10	
Health	Disease control of communicable disease	0.10	
Industry and trade	Industry and trade sector development	0.22	
	Trade and services	0.20	
Transport	Transport policies and institutional development	0.32	
Water and other urban infrastructure and services	Urban policy, institutional and capacity development	0.24	
<b>Total</b>			<b>2.00</b>
3. Strategic Agenda		Subcomponents	
Inclusive economic growth (IEG)	Pillar 2: Access to economic opportunities, including jobs, made more inclusive	<b>Climate Change Information</b>	
Regional integration (RCI)	Pillar 1: Cross-border infrastructure Pillar 2: Trade and investment Pillar 4: Other regional public goods	Climate Change impact on the Project	Low
4. Drivers of Change		Components	
Knowledge solutions (KNS)	Application and use of new knowledge solutions in key operational areas	<b>Gender Equity and Mainstreaming</b>	
Partnerships (PAR)	Knowledge sharing activities Implementation Private Sector Regional organizations	Some gender elements (SGE)	✓
5. Poverty and SDG Targeting		Location Impact	
Geographic Targeting	Yes	Regional	High
Household Targeting	No		
SDG Targeting	Yes		
SDG Goals	SDG10		
6. Risk Categorization		Low	
7. Safeguard Categorization			
Safeguard Policy Statement does not apply			
8. Financing			
<b>Modality and Sources</b>		<b>Amount (\$ million)</b>	
<b>ADB</b>		<b>2.00</b>	
Knowledge and Support technical assistance: Regional Cooperation and Integration Fund		0.50	
Knowledge and Support technical assistance: Technical Assistance Special Fund		1.50	
<b>Cofinancing</b>		<b>0.00</b>	
None		0.00	
<b>Counterpart</b>		<b>0.00</b>	
None		0.00	
<b>Total</b>		<b>2.00</b>	
9. Effective Development Cooperation			
Use of country procurement systems		No	
Use of country public financial management systems		No	

## I. INTRODUCTION

1. The knowledge and support technical assistance (TA) will support countries in the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) in transforming the GMS Program into a more effective regional cooperation platform that adds value to member countries' national development strategies and benefits the local populations of member countries.<sup>1</sup> The TA is aligned with the GMS Economic Cooperation Program Strategic Framework, 2012–2022; and ADB's Operational Plan for Regional Cooperation and Integration, 2016–2020.<sup>2</sup> GMS countries strongly support the proposed outputs and activities.

## II. ISSUES

2. Since 1992, ADB has provided financial support for high-priority subregional projects of the GMS Program in a wide range of sectors.<sup>3</sup> The ADB-supported projects have delivered concrete outputs. From 1992 to 2016, about 3,000 kilometers of power transmission and distribution lines were constructed and more than 10,000 kilometers of expressways and national roads of GMS corridors were built.<sup>4</sup> The GMS Program will celebrate its 25th year Anniversary in 2017 at a time when Asia is going through sweeping transformations that have altered its economic landscape in fundamental ways.

3. The GMS, however, still faces challenges. There are missing infrastructure links in GMS economic corridors, especially in Myanmar. The feeder road network connecting the production and trade hubs among GMS countries is not yet fully developed. Transport and trade facilitation measures have not been fully implemented, including the implementation of the GMS Cross-Border Transport Facilitation Agreement. Inequality within economies and across countries are growing. Climate change and the spread of contagious diseases present numerous obstacles to inclusive growth and sustainable development. Interregional linkages between the GMS and other subregions are weak. Within this context, GMS countries have requested ADB to continue to support the GMS Program.

4. The GMS strategic framework midterm review reaffirmed the strong ownership and commitment of the member countries in the GMS Program<sup>5</sup>. It identified the following challenges that need to be addressed to improve the effectiveness of the program: (i) weak coordination and

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<sup>1</sup> The TA first appeared in the business opportunities section of ADB's website on 12 September 2017. The GMS is made up of Cambodia, the People's Republic of China (specifically Yunnan Province and Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region), the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Thailand, and Viet Nam.

<sup>2</sup> The GMS secretariat presented the TA concept paper at the GMS Senior Officials' meeting on 7 July 2017 in Bangkok. GMS senior officials are represented by GMS national coordinators. The mandate of GMS Senior Officials' meetings is to provide guidance on GMS cooperation and support the GMS ministers and leaders in approving important policies for cooperation. ADB. 2011. *The Greater Mekong Subregion Economic Cooperation Program Strategic Framework, 2012–2022*. Manila; ADB. ADB. 2016. *Operational Plan for Regional Cooperation and Integration, 2016–2020: Promoting Connectivity, Competitiveness, Regional Public Goods, and Collective Action for Asia and the Pacific*. Manila.

<sup>3</sup> As of the end of 2016, ADB had extended loans totaling \$7.3 billion for 84 investment projects, with a total project cost of about \$19.1 billion. The GMS governments provided \$4.9 billion and the development partners provided \$6.9 billion.

<sup>4</sup> The achievements of the previous TA project that supported the GMS Program are included in the "Achievements of TA 7561-REG: Strengthening the Coordination of the GMS Program (2010-2017)" accessible from the list of linked documents in Appendix 3.

<sup>5</sup> ADB. Forthcoming. *Ha Noi Action Plan 2018-2022*. Manila.

decision-making mechanisms; (ii) inadequate mechanisms for project identification, resource mobilization, and results monitoring; and (iii) weak knowledge-based strategic planning.<sup>6</sup>

5. **Weak coordination and decision-making mechanisms.** High staff turnover in GMS national secretariats has resulted in low institutional memory and inexperience of staff. At the subregional level, the performance of working groups and forums (WGFs) varies. More importantly, not all GMS WGFs have well-defined work plans and terms of reference.<sup>7</sup> The GMS Summit and the GMS Ministerial Conference are still ceremonial rather than strategic. GMS ministers, development partners, and the private sector need to have more productive and dynamic interactions.

6. **Inadequate mechanisms for project identification, resource mobilization, and results monitoring.** The GMS Regional Investment Framework (RIF) 2013-2022 is a commendable effort by the GMS countries to develop a viable regional project pipeline.<sup>8</sup> The RIF operationalizes the strategic priorities of the GMS Program under the GMS Strategic Framework, 2012–2022. However, the RIF does not fully reflect the GMS countries' actual demand for project support. The subregional programming set forth in the RIF is not well aligned with individual countries' programming. Despite a long list of projects, there is a lack of bankable projects in the RIF.

7. The GMS Program has also been challenged by its inability to mobilize resources commensurate with rising demand. The lack of bankable projects and weak marketing of the project pipeline have limited the interest of development partners and the private sector in investing in the program. The program's monitoring and evaluation mechanism does not track the implementation progress, outcomes, and outputs of the GMS initiatives and projects.

8. **Weak knowledge-based strategic planning.** Strategic planning plays a critical role in the GMS Program given the increasingly complex issues that the program must deal with. Effective strategic planning depends on the quality of the analytical work, which should support (i) the decision-making processes, (ii) the formulation of sector strategies, and (iii) the identification of potential subregional projects.

### III. THE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

#### A. Impact and Outcome

9. The TA is aligned with the following impact: regional cooperation and integration in the GMS sustained. The TA will have the following outcome: implementation of the GMS Program is more effective.

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<sup>6</sup> A midterm review of the GMS Strategic Framework 2012-2022 was recently completed. The findings and recommendations of the midterm review have served as basis of the action program for the remaining five years of implementation of the GMS Strategic Framework (dubbed as the "Ha Noi Action Plan 2018-2022"). The framework and forward directions of the action program were endorsed at the 22<sup>nd</sup> GMS Ministerial Conference last 20 September 2017. The Ha Noi Action Plan will be finalized for adoption at the 6<sup>th</sup> GMS Summit in March 2018.

<sup>7</sup> Ideally, the WGFs should exercise four main functions: (i) knowledge platform for information sharing; (ii) regional policy exchange and dialogue, and occasionally formulation of regional agreements; (iii) project identification and programming, which is critical to the alignment of the GMS Regional Investment Framework (RIF) with national priorities, and with ADB's country partnership strategies and country operations business plans; and (iv) monitoring of project implementation and agreed regional policies. Almost all WGFs focus only on (i), and have not effectively exercised the other functions.

<sup>8</sup> ADB. 2013. Overview of the GMS Regional Investment Framework (2013–2022). <https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/publication/42581/overview-gms-regional-investment-framework-2013-2022.pdf>

## B. Outputs, Methods, and Activities

10. **Output 1: Coordination and decision-making mechanisms strengthened.** First, for GMS national secretariats, the TA will enhance the capacity of staff through (i) participation in short-term training courses, or specific task-based assignments; and (ii) provision of national consultants. Second, for WGFs, the TA will focus on (i) revising or preparing the work plans of some sector working groups;<sup>9</sup> and (ii) supporting the organization of some WGFs' meetings.<sup>10</sup> Third, the TA will continue to support the organization of the GMS Summit, the Economic Corridors Forum, and the GMS Ministerial Conference.

11. **Output 2: Project identification, resource mobilization, and results monitoring mechanisms improved.** The TA will support the updating of the RIF. The RIF will provide initial information to support project identification at the country level. Spatial planning will help prioritize projects to be included in the RIF. The GMS central and national secretariats, and sector WGFs will regularly review and update the revised RIF to maintain its relevance and responsiveness as a planning tool for project identification, and in the alignment of regional and national programming. The TA will also support enhancements to (i) the GMS project database to allow the monitoring of both project progress and results, and (ii) the GMS website to support project monitoring and sharing of information. The GMS central and national secretariats will continue to support the organization of the governors' forums, development partners' meetings, and the regional investment forum to promote project identification and resource mobilization.<sup>11</sup>

12. **Output 3: Knowledge-based strategic planning enhanced.**<sup>12</sup> The TA will support the preparation of (i) sector and/or country and regional assessments to inform the preparation of sector strategies, country partnership strategies, and country operations business plans; (ii) promotional materials to disseminate GMS achievements;<sup>13</sup> (iii) GMS statistical handbooks; (iv) corridor performance assessments; (v) thematic seminars that will contribute to more substantive discussions at the GMS Summit and Ministerial Conference; and (vi) studies that support the Governors' Forum.

## C. Cost and Financing

13. The TA is estimated to cost \$2.0 million, of which \$1.5 million will be financed on a grant basis by ADB's Technical Assistance Special Fund (TASF-6) and \$500,000 will be financed on a grant basis by the Regional Cooperation and Integration Fund.<sup>14</sup> The key expenditure items are listed in Appendix 2.

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<sup>9</sup> The GMS Strategic Framework, 2012–2022 identifies the following priority sectors: agriculture, energy, environment (natural resource management, flood, and drought control), human resource development, health, information and communication technology, urban development, tourism, and transport and trade facilitation.

<sup>10</sup> The Transport and Communications Division, Urban Development and Water Division, and other sector divisions of SERD will be responsible for overseeing the work of consultants who will be hired to (i) prepare their sector work plans, and (ii) take the lead in organizing the working group meetings.

<sup>11</sup> Development partners' meetings also aim to facilitate greater synergy in the GMS Program with other regional initiatives such as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations; One Belt, One Road Initiative; and Lancang-Mekong River Initiative.

<sup>12</sup> The Regional Cooperation and Operations Coordination Division will follow the staff instructions on TA to review and input the planned knowledge products of the TA in K-Nexus.

<sup>13</sup> SERD will collaborate with knowledge departments such as the Economic Research and Regional Cooperation Department, Sustainable Development and Climate Change Department-Knowledge Sharing and Services Center, and the ADB Institute in preparing knowledge products, which can be disseminated for greater visibility through various channels, including the GMS website and the Development Asia website.

<sup>14</sup> Established by ADB. Financing partner: the Government of Japan.

## D. Implementation Arrangements

14. ADB will administer the TA. The Regional Cooperation and Operations Coordination Division of the Southeast Asia Department (SERD) will implement the TA in consultation with SERD resident missions and sector divisions as well as the East Asia Department. It will select, supervise, and evaluate consultants. The project team will monitor TA implementation in coordination with respective GMS national secretariats in member countries.

15. The TA will be implemented from October 2017 to December 2019. A total of 223 person-months of consulting services will be required. Given the wide range of skills and sector expertise required by the TA (e.g., economics, statistics, agriculture, natural resource management, energy, urban development, trade, transport, web design, and programming) coupled with the importance of experts' familiarity with the GMS Program and GMS thrusts, the required expertise is unlikely to be available in a single firm. A core group of individual consultants specializing in regional cooperation, economic development, and coordination will provide advisory, technical, and administrative support services to assist in the overall management of the GMS Program. Another group of consultants will be tasked with improving and maintaining the GMS website, project database, and statistics database. Individual consultants will also be engaged to write various knowledge products or act as resource persons for some of the high-level meetings.

16. In organizing meetings and workshops, ADB will procure goods and services (such as rental of equipment and meeting rooms) using the shopping method. ADB will engage individual consultants and will procure all TA-financed goods in accordance with the ADB Procurement Policy and Procurement Regulations for ADB Borrowers (2017) and the associated project administration instructions and TA staff instructions. Disbursements under the TA will be in accordance with ADB's *Technical Assistance Disbursement Handbook* (2010, as amended from time to time).

17. The expected outputs and outcome evaluation will be disseminated (i) internally through ADB's in-house publications, activities of the Regional Cooperation and Integration Thematic Group, and internal retreats and workshops; and (ii) externally via the ADB website, presentations in various forums, external publications, and feature articles in publications.

18. ADB, as the central secretariat of the GMS Program, will maintain the GMS website. Turning over the website to a single GMS government is not being considered given that none of the GMS governments can take over the management of the website due to limited capacity. ADB's guidelines on social media and the branding tool kit will be followed in developing and managing the website. The website will also be registered in the fixed asset registry in consultation with ADB's Office of Administrative Services.

19. The TA will have various knowledge products. The publications will be disseminated through the GMS website and via ADB workshops and brown bag meetings, and printed for and distributed to stakeholders, when necessary. A limited number of copies of the knowledge products will be printed to (i) facilitate their delivery to target stakeholders such as GMS government officials, development partners, and the private sector; and (ii) promote the GMS Program and ADB's support to the program during high-profile events.<sup>15</sup>

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<sup>15</sup> About 150 copies of each report are expected to be printed for the GMS Economic Corridors Forum, Ministerial Conference, and Summit. The average cost of printing and shipping each report is about \$2,000.

### Implementation Arrangements

Aspects	Arrangements		
Indicative implementation period	October 2017–December 2019		
Executing agency	ADB		
Implementing agencies	SERC will play the principal role in administering and supervising the knowledge and support TA <sup>a</sup>		
Consultants	To be selected and engaged by ADB		
	Individual selection <sup>b</sup>	223 person-months	\$1,144,000 <sup>c</sup>
Procurement	Procurement will be undertaken by ADB and will be conducted in accordance with ADB Procurement Policy and Procurement Regulations for ADB Borrowers (2017)		
	Shopping method	14 contracts	\$271,000
Printed external publications	Limited copies of important knowledge products will be printed for dissemination during the GMS Summit, Ministerial Conference, and Economic Corridors Forum to promote the program during these high-profile events.		
Social media and websites	ADB as the central secretariat of the GMS Program will develop and maintain the GMS website.		
Disbursement	The TA resources will be disbursed following ADB's <i>Technical Assistance Disbursement Handbook</i> (2010, as amended from time to time). The RCIF will be utilized on a front-loaded basis.		

ADB = Asian Development Bank; EARD = East Asia Department; GMS = Greater Mekong Subregion; RCIF = Regional Cooperation and Integration Fund; SERC = Regional Cooperation and Operations Coordination Division, SERD; SERD = Southeast Asia Department; SETC = Transport and Communications Division, SERD; SEUW = Urban Development and Water Division, SERD; TA = technical assistance.

<sup>a</sup> SETC will be responsible for organizing the GMS Subregional Transport Forum while SEUW will organize the GMS Urban Development working group meeting. SETC, SEUW, and other sector divisions of SERD will also supervise consultants who may be engaged under the TA to prepare the work plans of the sector working groups. SERC will coordinate with EARD especially with regard to the participation of EARD staff and officials from the People's Republic of China in GMS meetings. EARD staff will participate in or comment on the production of GMS knowledge products.

<sup>b</sup> The TA will require 29 individual consultant contracts (8 international and 21 national) and 7 resource person contracts. SERC has adequate staff capacity to manage the proposed individual contracts in this TA.

<sup>c</sup> Total budget for consultants includes resource persons for workshops and seminars.

Source: ADB.

## IV. THE PRESIDENT'S DECISION

20. The President, acting under the authority delegated by the Board, has approved (i) ADB administering a portion of technical assistance not exceeding the equivalent of \$500,000 to be financed on a grant basis by the Regional Cooperation and Integration Fund, and (ii) ADB providing the balance not exceeding the equivalent of \$1,500,000 on a grant basis for Sustaining the Gains of Regional Cooperation in the Greater Mekong Subregion, and hereby reports this action to the Board.

**DESIGN AND MONITORING FRAMEWORK**

<b>Impacts the project is aligned with:</b> Regional cooperation and integration in the GMS sustained <sup>a</sup>			
<b>Results Chain</b>	<b>Performance Indicators with Targets and Baselines</b>	<b>Data Sources and Reporting Mechanisms</b>	<b>Risks</b>
<b>Outcome</b> Implementation of the GMS Program is more effective	By December 2019: a. Projects in the GMS RIF with approved financing increased to at least 70% b. Projects in the GMS RIF that have commenced implementation increased to 40% (2016 baseline for RIF implementation plan: financing = 62%, commenced implementation = 30%)	GMS project database	Projects cannot be implemented due to insufficient resources  Change in government priorities, with less importance on regional cooperation
<b>Outputs</b> 1. Coordination and decision-making mechanisms strengthened	By December 2019: 1a. At least 18 GMS national secretariat staff gained relevant knowledge and skills (2017 baseline: Not applicable) <sup>b</sup> 1b. At least two work plans for sector working groups prepared (2017 baseline: Only one work plan of HRDWG prepared) 1c. At least eight meetings of the working groups held (trade facilitation, transport, transport facilitation, and urban development) (2016–2017 baseline: four meetings of sector working groups organized) <sup>c</sup> 1d. One GMS Summit, two ministerial conferences, and two ECFs held (2016–2017 baseline: No GMS Summit, two ministerial conferences, and two ECFs)	1a. Report to GMS SOM, and feedback from the trainees  1b. Reports of the working groups  1c. Proceedings of WGFs, GMS Summit, and ministerial conferences  1d. Proceedings of WGFs, GMS Summit, and ministerial conferences	Restructuring and high turnover among staff of GMS national secretariats

<b>Results Chain</b>	<b>Performance Indicators with Targets and Baselines</b>	<b>Data Sources and Reporting Mechanisms</b>	<b>Risks</b>
2. Project identification, resource mobilization, and results monitoring mechanisms improved	<p>By December 2018:</p> <p>2a. RIF 2022 endorsed by the GMS leaders (2014 baseline: RIF Implementation Plan, 2014–2018 was endorsed by the GMS leaders at the 5th GMS Summit)</p> <p>2b. GMS project database completed (2017 baseline: GMS project database is incomplete)</p> <p>2c. GMS website improved and maintained (2017 baseline: GMS website is being maintained)</p> <p>2d. Two development partners' forums and two investment forums held (2016–2017 baseline: Two development partners' forums held)</p>	<p>2a. GMS midterm review report, and joint statement of the GMS leaders</p> <p>2b. Report of the SOM to the GMS ministers, feedback from GMS countries and research institutes, project database</p> <p>2c. Feedback from the GMS countries</p> <p>2d. Proceedings of the development partners' forums and investment forums</p>	<p>GMS countries and development partners do not prioritize GMS cooperation</p> <p>Strict control and tight censorship of the use of internet in some GMS countries may reduce usage of the project geocoding database and the online project monitoring mechanism</p>
3. Knowledge-based strategic planning enhanced	<p>By March 2018:</p> <p>3a. GMS Action Plan, 2018–2022 endorsed (2016 baseline: GMS action plan to support the implementation of GMS Strategic Framework, 2012–2022 not prepared)</p> <p>By December 2019:</p> <p>3b. At least four RCI country assessments produced (2012–2017 baseline: Not applicable)</p> <p>3c. Fourth and fifth editions of the GMS statistical handbook produced (2016–2017 baseline: Second and third editions of the GMS statistical handbook prepared)</p> <p>3d. At least two surveys to monitor the performance of selected GMS corridors produced (2012–2017 baseline: Not applicable)</p> <p>3e. Two thematic seminars held (2012–2017 baseline: Not applicable)</p>	<p>3a. Joint statement of the GMS leaders</p> <p>3b. Country partnership strategies, country operations business plans, and feedback of SOM and GMS countries</p> <p>3c. Report of SOM to the ministers and GMS leaders, and feedback of GMS countries on the GMS statistics</p> <p>3d. Reports to the Trade Facilitation Working Group and the Subregional Transport Forum</p>	<p>GMS countries do not cooperate in providing required statistics</p> <p>Central governments do not delegate authority to local governors for GMS cooperation</p>

Results Chain	Performance Indicators with Targets and Baselines	Data Sources and Reporting Mechanisms	Risks
	3f. One or two knowledge products for the two governors' forums produced (2016–2017 baseline: Not applicable)	3e. Feedback from the GMS countries, and summary of proceedings of the GMS ministerial conferences and Summit 3f. Proceedings of the governors' forums	
<p><b>Key Activities with Milestones</b></p> <p><b>1. Coordination and decision-making mechanisms strengthened</b></p> <p>1.1 Support the organization of GMS sector working groups, including preparing two sector work plans(Q1 2018–Q4 2019)</p> <p>1.2 Assess and identify training needs and training courses for GMS national secretariat staff (Q1 2018)</p> <p>1.3 Organize the first development partners' forum back-to-back with the GMS ECF and GMS Ministerial Conference (Q3 2018)</p> <p>1.4 Organize the second development partners' forum back-to-back with the GMS ECF and GMS Ministerial Conference (Q3 2019)</p> <p><b>2. Project identification, resource mobilization, and results monitoring mechanisms improved</b></p> <p>2.1 Finalize RIF, 2018–2022 for endorsement by the GMS leaders (Q1 2018)</p> <p>2.2 Complete the enhancements in the GMS project and statistical database to allow the monitoring of both project progress and project results (Q2 2018)</p> <p>2.3 Maintain the GMS website to support project monitoring and sharing of information (Q4 2019)</p> <p>2.4 Organize the first development partners' forum and investment forums (Q3 2018)</p> <p>2.5 Organize the second development partners' forum and investment forums (Q3 2019)</p> <p><b>3. Knowledge-based strategic planning enhanced</b></p> <p>3.1 Conduct the first thematic seminar to provide inputs to the GMS Summit (Q4 2017) and the second thematic seminar to provide inputs to the GMS Ministerial Conference (Q2 2019)</p> <p>3.2 Finalize and endorse the GMS Action Plan, 2018–2022 at the 6th GMS Summit (Q1 2018)</p> <p>3.3 Select national consultants and national advisors to prepare the country RCI assessments (Q1 2018)</p> <p>3.4 Complete the fourth GMS statistics booklet (Q2 2018) and fifth GMS statistics booklet (Q2 2019)</p> <p>3.5 Complete two country RCI assessments in Q2 2018 and two in Q2 2019</p> <p>3.6 Complete the two GMS corridor performance assessments (Q2 2018)</p> <p>3.7 Prepare one or two knowledge products for the Governors' Forum (Q4 2019)</p>			
<p><b>Inputs</b></p> <p>ADB: \$1,500,000 Technical Assistance Special Fund (TASF 6)</p> <p>Regional Cooperation and Integration Fund: \$500,000</p>			
<p><b>Assumptions for Partner Financing</b></p> <p>Not applicable</p>			

ADB = Asian Development Bank, ECF = Economic Corridors Forum, GMS = Greater Mekong Subregion, HRDWG = Human Resource Development Working Group, RCI = regional cooperation and integration, RIF = Regional Investment Framework, SOM = Senior Officials' Meeting, TA = technical assistance, WGF = working group and forum.

<sup>a</sup> The impact of TA is aligned with the vision statement of the GMS Strategic Framework, 2012–2022, which aims to achieve a more integrated, prosperous, and equitable GMS.

<sup>b</sup> The GMS national secretariat staff will be trained on (i) regional trade, investment, transport, trade facilitation, agriculture, natural resource management, tourism, health, human resource development, and information and communication technology; and (ii) skills such as project design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation.

<sup>c</sup> The TA will provide financial support for organizing the meetings and producing the work plans of the trade facilitation, transport, transport facilitation, and urban working groups. For other working groups, technical assistance support will be extended through the support of consultants in preparing meeting documents.

Source: ADB.

**COST ESTIMATES AND FINANCING PLAN**  
(\$'000)

Item	Amount	
	ADB <sup>a</sup>	RCIF <sup>b</sup>
1. Consultants		
a. Remuneration and per diem		
i. International consultants		400.0
ii. National consultants	600.0	
b. Out-of-pocket expenditures		
i. International and local travel	44.0	42.0
2. Printed external publications	20.0	
3. Training, seminars, workshops, forums, and conferences <sup>c</sup>		
a. Facilitators <sup>d</sup>		58.0
b. Venue rental and related facilities	257.0	
c. Participants	425.0	
d. Representation <sup>e</sup>	14.0	
4. Miscellaneous administration and support costs	10.0	
5. Contingencies	130.0	
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,500.0</b>	<b>500.0</b>

ADB = Asian Development Bank, GMS = Greater Mekong Subregion, RCIF = Regional Cooperation and Integration Fund, SOM = Senior Officials' Meeting, TA = technical assistance.

Note: The TA is estimated to cost \$2 million, of which contributions from ADB and the RCIF are presented in the table above. The RCIF will be utilized on a front-loaded basis.

<sup>a</sup> Financed by ADB's Technical Assistance Special Fund (TASF-6).

<sup>b</sup> Established by ADB. Financing partner: the Government of Japan.

<sup>c</sup> These include the following: two back-to-back GMS ministerial conferences and economic corridors forums (145 participants per meeting, to be held in Cambodia and the Lao People's Democratic Republic), two face-to-face SOMs, and about six videos on the SOMs (60 participants per meeting, venue of face-to-face meetings to be determined), eight sector working group or task force meetings (about 50 participants per meeting, venue to be determined), two thematic seminars (20 participants per meeting, venue to be determined), two batches of external training of GMS national secretariat staff (18 participants total, program and venue to be determined).

<sup>d</sup> Facilitators will be engaged as resource persons. They are not ADB staff.

<sup>e</sup> Representation expenses include alcoholic beverages during high-level official functions attended by the GMS leaders and ministers, as well as room accommodation for the GMS leaders or ministers, which are above the ADB ceiling. As a matter of courtesy to the GMS leaders or ministers, ADB support may be requested by GMS host countries for these expenses for high-level meetings.

Source: ADB estimates.

**LIST OF LINKED DOCUMENTS**

<http://www.adb.org/Documents/LinkedDocs/?id=51178-001-TARreport>

1. Terms of Reference for Consultants
2. Achievements of TA 7561-REG: Strengthening the Coordination of the GMS Program (2010–2017)