

**Greater Mekong Sub-Region
Business Council (GMS-BC) Retreat 2017**

Phnom Penh, May 15, 2017

Draft Concept Note

A. Background

1. **The Greater Mekong Sub-Region (GMS)** is a natural economic area bound together by the Mekong River, covering 2.6 million square kilometers and a combined population of around 326 million. The GMS countries are Cambodia, the People's Republic of China (PRC, specifically Yunnan Province and Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region), Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR), Myanmar, Thailand, and Viet Nam. In 1992, with assistance from ADB, the six countries entered into a program of subregional economic cooperation, designed to enhance economic relations among the countries.
2. **The GMS Economic Cooperation Program** has embarked on its third decade, guided by the GMS Economic Cooperation Strategic Framework (SF) 2012 to 2022, GMS countries are examining a range of new measures and approaches to further strengthen this region's cooperation. Among others, these involved more emphasis on economic corridor development as a key platform for delivering multi-sector initiatives through stronger cross-sectoral linkages and coordination, greater consideration of spatial aspects of development, more careful balancing of development with environmental concerns, more effective resource mobilization and utilization, greater local stakeholder involvement, closer linkages with other regional programs, and more effective monitoring and evaluation of results.
3. **The GMS Business Forum (GMS-BF)** has been established to enhance private sector participation in the GMS Economic Cooperation Program initiated by the Government of the GMS Countries. The work of the GMS-BF has been centered to cross border trade and transport facilitation, SME development and private sector investment. At the GMS Summit In 2014, the GMS-BF has been upgraded to an GMS Business Council (GMS-BC).
4. Trade and Transport Facilitation (TTF), SME Development, Natural Disasters Risk Management and Mitigation, and the Implementation of the GMS Regional Investment Framework (RIF) are the main issues of the GMS-BF agenda since its inception in 2000.
 - **Cross Border Trade and Transport Facilitation** focuses on the implementation of the Cross-Border Transport Agreement (CBTA). The activities comprise of (1) monitoring GMS Economic Corridors' Performance including cross border customs and transit system and procedures, NTB-NTM, border operation and opening hours, transport right, transshipment, container transport, etc; (2) the harmonization and upgrading of transport standards through the improvement of logistics and transport facilities, and training of SMEs in logistic and transport operation and truck drivers; (3) the establishment of the GMS Freight transport Association (GMS-FRETA) to facilitate trade and transport operations.
 - **SME development** focuses on developing the capacity of SME to access to regional and global value chains by establishing credit guarantee schemes in CMLV countries.

- **Natural Disaster Risks Management:** Climate changes leading to increased number of natural disasters events such as the floods in Thailand in 2012 increased the demand or private sector participation in disaster risk management and mitigation.
- **The GMS Regional Investment Framework (RIF),** which translates the strategic directions of the GMS-BC into an indicative pipeline of new generation of investment and technical assistance projects for 2013 to 2022. GMS-BC is a platform to promote the GMS as an investment destination, and secondarily, to explore and promote new investment possibilities and modalities – not only from GMS members and development partners but also from the private sector – as well as to share knowledge, experience, and expertise, on public-private partnership arrangements and prospects.

B. Objectives, Expected Output and Outcomes

Objectives:

The GMS Business Council Retreat meeting will bring together public, private sector stakeholders and development partners to review the mandate, objectives and activities of the GMS-BC within the framework of the GMS Economic Cooperation Strategic Framework 2012 to 2022. The implementation of the GMS Economic Cooperation Strategic Framework 2012 to 2022 is in its 5th year and a mid-term review is under process. The Private Sector represented by the GMS-BC would like to review and set new objectives and activities for private sector development and cooperation within the GMS Region in line with new development and new market changes.

The Meeting objectives are to:

- i. Introduce the private sector to the development vision for the GMS in its third decade, as expressed in the GMS Strategic Framework 2012 – 2022, and to review the activities of the private sector led programs initiated by the GMS Business Council (GMS-BC); That will comprise of:
 - A review of the current objectives and activities of GMS-BC;
 - A review of facilities to promote Private Sector Development;
 - A review of human resource development and capacity building;
- ii. Identify new objectives and core activities for GMS-BC until 2022; and
- iii. Provide short, medium and long terms private sector recommendations to GMS Governments for implementing the GMS Strategic Framework 2012-2022 and other development framework in the region.

Expected Output and Outcomes:

A GMS-BC summary from the private sector's perspective on the way forward for an inclusive and sustainable development in the GMS. The meeting summary will be further prepared as a GMS-BC Report to be presented to the 9th GMS Economic Corridor Forum (ECF-9), the 22nd GMS Ministerial Meeting and to the GMS Leaders at the 6th GMS Summit.

C. Participation

About 50 participants are expected to attend, comprising the following:

- i. Private Sector Representatives of the GMS Business Council;
- ii. Representatives from the Mekong Business Initiative Program;
- iii. Representatives from the Mekong Institute's Program; and
- iv. Representatives of development partners (ADB, UNESCAP, European Union, GiZ...).

D. Format and Structure

The Investment Forum will feature 3 sessions (1) on the role of GMS-BC in the implementation of the GMS Economic Cooperation Strategic Framework 2012 to 2022, (2) on the Facilities to Promote Private Sector Development in GMS, and (3) Human Resource Development and Capacity Building for GMS Regional Cooperation.

Session 1: Role of GMS-BC in Regional Economic Cooperation

This session will feature an overview presentation of the role of the GMS-BC in the implementation of the GMS Economic Cooperation Strategic Framework 2012-2022, and of the Hanoi Action Plan 2018-2022. Are the current GMS-BC's objectives and activities relevant to new development and market changes in the region?

This session will contain a presentation by Mr. Oudet Souvannavong, Secretary General of the GMS-BC, president of the Lao National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LNCCI); and

General discussion lead by Dr. Jingjai Hanchanlash, Honorary Chairman of GMS-BC of Thailand, Mr. Moe Kyaw, CEC Member of UMFCCI, Mr. Sok Piseth, Vice President of CCC, Chairman of Young Entrepreneur Association of Cambodia and Ms. Pinsuda Alexander, Economist, Regional Cooperation, Asian Development Bank.

Session 2: Private Sector's Development Facilities.

This session will discuss existing and potential facilities to promote private sector development in the GMS Region. What are the regional private sector development agenda that could be implemented with the GMS-BC?

This session will contain a presentation on promoting business environment reforms in the GMS by Mr. Dominic Mellor, Mekong Business Initiative ADB; and

General discussion lead by Mr. John Tran, Board Member of Vietnam's Young Entrepreneur Associations, Mr. Htun Htun Naing, Chairman & CEO of Blue Ocean Operating Management Company Limited, and Chairman of Young Entrepreneur Association, Mr. Keovisouk Dalasane, Managing Director of 108Jobs, Knowledge and Consulting Services, and Ms. Nguyen Thi Bich Ha, Vice President, Ho Chi Min City Women Entrepreneur Association.

Session 3: Human Resource Development and Capacity Building for GMS Regional Cooperation.

This session will discuss the existing future private sector HRD and capacity building for GMS Regional Cooperation. What are the private sector capacity building program that could be implemented with the GMS-BC. This session will contain a presentation on promoting the capacity of the private sector in GMS by Mr. Madhuriya Kumar Dutta, Director, Trade and Investment Facilitation, Mekong Institute.

Followed by a general discussion lead by Captain Ang Khin Myint, President of GMS Freight Transport Association (FRETA) and President of Myanmar International Freight Forwarders Association (MIFFA), and Mr. John Quarmby, Consultant Executive of FRETA to GIZ- European Union, Sustainable Freight and Logistics in the Mekong Region project, as well as contribution of ASEAN-Korea Centre to GMS Businesses, by Ms. Jang Yeun-ju, the Head of Trade and Investment Unit of ASEAN-Korea Centre (AKC).

Session 4: Concluding Session

This session will highlight all the issues discussed during the GMS-BC Retreat, each issue will be summarized into core statements. Mr. Oudet Souvannavong Secretary General of the GMS-BF will conduct the concluding session.

E. Provisional Program-Agenda of GMS Business Council Retreat

The GMS Business Council Retreat will be held from 9:00 to 17:00 H, Monday, 15 May 2017. A copy of the Provisional Program is attached.

GMS-BC Retreat 2017
Himawari Hotel, Phnom Penh, Cambodia
Draft Provisional Agenda

Time	Session & Activities	Location
8:30 - 9:00	Registration for GMS-BC Retreat 2017 Participants	Himawari Hotel, Phnom Penh, Cambodia
9:00 - 09:30	<p>Opening Session</p> <p>Welcome remark by Mr. Sok Piseth, Vice President of CCC, Chairman of Young Entrepreneur Association of Cambodia.</p> <p>Opening address by Dr. Jingjai Hanchanlash, Honorary Chairman GMS-BC, Vice-President Thai Chamber of Commerce (TCC).</p> <p>Objective of the GMS BC address by Mr. Oudet Souvannavong Secretary General of GMS BC, President of the LNCCI.</p>	Himawari Hotel, Phnom Penh, Cambodia
09:30 - 10:30	<p><u>Session 1: Role of GMS-BC in Regional Economic Cooperation.</u> What is the role of GMS-BC in the implementation of the GMS Economic Cooperation Strategic Framework 2012-2022, and Hanoi Action Plan 2018-2022? Are the current GMS-BC's objectives and activities relevant to new development and market changes in the region? How to get more private sector participation in GMS-BC?</p> <p>Presentation on GMS-BC Objectives and Activities, and proposed new strategic private sector development activities for GMS-BC to 2022 by Mr. Oudet Souvannavong, Secretary General of GMS-BC, President of Lao National Chamber of Commerce and Industry.</p>	Himawari Hotel, Phnom Penh, Cambodia
10:30 - 10:45	Coffee Break	
10:45 - 11:45	<p><u>Discussion on Role of GMS-BC in Regional Economic Cooperation</u></p> <p>Main Discussants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Jingjai Hanchanlash, Honorary Chairman of GMS-BC of Thailand, • Mr. Moe Kyaw, CEC Member of UMFCCI • Mr. Sok Phiseth, Vice President of CCC, Chairman of Young Entrepreneur Association of Cambodia and; • Ms. Pinsuda Alexander, Economist, Regional Cooperation, Asian Development Bank. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderated by Mr. Oudet Souvannavong 	
11:45 - 13:00	Lunch Break	Himawari Hotel, Phnom Penh, Cambodia
13:00 - 14:15	<p><u>Session 2: Facilities to promote Private Sector Development in the GMS Region.</u> What are the Regional Private Sector Development Agenda that could be implemented with the GMS-BC?</p> <p>Promoting Business Environment Reforms in the GMS for the GMS Economic Cooperation Program Strategic Framework 2012-2022, by Mr. Dominic Mellor, Mekong Business Initiative, ADB.</p> <p><u>Discussion on Facilities to promote Private Sector Development in the GMS Region.</u></p> <p>Main Discussants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. John Tran, Board Member of Vietnam's Young Entrepreneur Associations, • Mr. Htun Htun Naing, Chairman & CEO of Blue Ocean Operating Management Company Limited, and Chairman of Young Entrepreneur Association; and • Mr. Keovisouk Dalasane, Managing Director of 108Jobs, Knowledge and Consulting Services. • Ms. Nguyen Thi Bich Ha, Vice President, Ho Chi Min City Women Entrepreneur Association. • Moderated by Dominic Mellor 	Himawari Hotel, Phnom Penh, Cambodia
14:15 - 15:30	<p><u>Session 3: Human Resource Development and Capacity Building for GMS Regional Cooperation.</u> What are the Private Sector Capacity Building Programs that could be implemented with the GMS-BC?</p> <p>Presentation on Promoting the capacity of the Private Sector in the GMS Region, by Mr. Madhuriya Kumar Dutta, Director, Trade and Investment Facilitation, Mekong Institute (MI).</p> <p>Presentation by Ms. Jang Yeun-ju, Head of Trade and Investment Unit of ASEAN-Korea Centre (AKC), on ASEAN-KOREA Centre to GMS Businesses.</p>	Himawari Hotel, Phnom Penh, Cambodia

	<p><u>Discussion on Human Resource Development and Capacity Building for GMS Regional Cooperation.</u></p> <p>Main Discussants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Captain Ang Khin Myint President of GMS Freight Transport Association (FRETA) and President of Myanmar International Freight-Forwarders Association (MIFFA) • Mr. John Quarmby, Consultant Executive of FRETA to GIZ- European Union, Sustainable Freight and Logistics in the Mekong Region project. • Ms. Jang Yeun-ju, Head of Trade and Investment Unit of ASEAN-Korea Centre (AKC), on ASEAN-KOREA Centre to GMS Businesses. • Moderated by Mr. Madhuriya Kumar Dutta. 	
15:30 - 15:45	Coffee and Tea Break	
15:45 - 16:45	<p>Wrap-up Session: Presentation of the findings from the 3 sessions followed by a general discussion.</p> <p>The Wrap-up Session will be moderated by Mekong Business Initiative, ADB, and Mr. Oudet Souvannavong, Secretary General of the GMS-BC.</p>	Himawari Hotel, Phnom Penh, Cambodia
16:45 - 17:00	Closing by Mr. Sok Piseth, Vice President of CCC, Chairman of Young Entrepreneur Association of Cambodia.	