



**The 1st – 2018 GMS Business Council Board of Directors’ Meeting on 8 February 2018,
at ADB Resident Mission Bangkok, Thailand.**

The 1st – 2018 GMS Business Council Board of Directors’ Meeting was held on 8th February 2018 at ADB Resident Mission Bangkok, Thailand with video link to Phnom Penh, Vientiane, Hanoi, Yangon, Beijing and Manila. Mr. Oudet Souvannavong, Chairman of GMS Business Council, and President of Lao National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LNCCI) chaired the meeting. Please refer to the list of participants in (Annex2)

Opening Remarks

Mr. Oudet Souvannavong, Chairman of GMS Business Council welcomed the board members, CCPIT members, and ADB team for attending the meeting. The meeting aimed to discuss strategic action plan 2018 - 2022, preparation for the 6th GMS Summit, work plan for GMS-FRETA, and the collaboration between GMS-BC and Lancang-Mekong Business Council (LMBC).

Established in 2000, Mr. Oudet stated that it is time for GMS-BC to redesign approaches in coordinating in GMS countries. The strategy is an important key. Although the establishment of GMS-FRETA is a very good initiative, still GMS-FRETA needs to be strengthened. It is also necessary for GMS-BC to get more members to join. Moreover, with the arrival of the 4th Industrial Revolution, GMS-BC intends to promote young and women entrepreneurs. Lastly, GMS-BC should prepare for the 6th GMS-Summit.

Annotation and review of the meeting agenda and approval of the last board meeting on 16th August 2017

All members approved the agenda of the meeting as well as the minutes of the previous GMS-BC Board of Directors’ meeting.

Progress Report on the activities from July to December 2017

Mr. Sutee Satanasathaporn, Secretary General of GMS-BC reported 5 main activities from July to December 2017.

1) GMS-BC held the board of directors’ meeting on 16th August 2017 at ADB Resident Mission, Phnom Penh, Cambodia. The chairmanship rotated from Mr. Oknha Kith Meng, President of Cambodia Chamber of Commerce to Mr. Oudet Souvannavong, President of Lao National



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Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Mr.Somyod Tangmeelarp, Vice Chairman of the Federation of Thai Industries and Mr.Sok Phiseth, Vice President of Cambodia Chamber of Commerce were appointed as Vice Chairman of GMS-BC. Moreover, the GMS-BC Secretary General rotated from Mr. Oudet Souvannavong to Mr.Sutee Satanasathaporn, Director General, Joint Standing Committee on Commerce, Industry and Banking (JSCCIB-Thailand). The meeting also agreed on the development of Strategic Action Plan 2018 - 2022.

2) The 22nd GMS Ministerial Conference was organized during 18 – 20 September 2017 at Sheraton Hanoi Hotel, Hanoi, Vietnam. Mr. Oudet presented focus areas of GMS-BC including GMS-FRETA, SMEs, disaster preparedness, digital economy and technologies, young and women entrepreneurs, platform database and network for a GMS capital market platform.

3) On 22nd November 2017, GMS-FRETA Myanmar – Thailand Bilateral Meeting was held at Sule Shangri-La Hotel, Yangon, Myanmar. Apart from sharing ideas on cross border logistics, the meeting updated progress of early harvest CBTA implementation.

4) To develop an action plan, Strategic Planning and Work Plan Preparatory Meeting of GMS-Business Council was arranged on 23rd November 2017 at Sule Shangri-La Hotel, Yangon, Myanmar.

5) GMS-BC participated in Brainstorming Meeting on GMS Long Term Directions on 11th December 2018, at Hilton Hanoi Opera Hotel, Hanoi, Vietnam

Financial Report for January – December 2017

Mr.Sutee reported that the total assets of GMS-BC is 1,966.10 USD. The total income from memberships fee, revenues for fixed asset and profit on foreign exchanges is 18,231.64 USD. Mr. Oudet added that the membership should be renewed by Union of Myanmar Federation of Chamber of Commerce (UMFCCI), Cambodia Chamber of Commerce (CCC), including Yunnan Provincial Chamber of Commerce (YPCC) and All-China Federation of Industry and Commerce (ACFIC).

GMS-BC Strategic Action Plan

Mr. Phan Vinh Quang from Mekong Business Initiative (MBI) presented the Strategic action plan 2018 - 2022 of GMS-BC. GMS-BC has engaged in 5 pillars of GMS namely, infrastructure linkage, cross-border trade, investment and tourism, PS participation competitiveness, human resources development and environmental protection. At the moment, GMS-BC should be ready for the bigger and deeper economic integrations, the emerging of technologies and new business models. Thus, in recognition of GMS framework, the strategic action plan focuses on major areas; transport and trade facilitation, energy, agriculture, environment, tourism, urban and border area development, human resources developments, and e-commerce, including MSMEs,



and young and women entrepreneurs as cross cutting issues. Furthermore, apart from having more members to join and promoting participation of members, GMS-BC secretariat needs to be strengthened. Mr. Quang stated that initially, GMS-BC should select short-term and low budget activities, with the maximum of 3 activities. He suggested GMS business application, technical assistances to strengthen GMS-BC and doing business indicator benchmarking. Activities could be updated reflecting the present environment. GMS-FRETA could also be one of the key activities.

Mr. Xu Liang appreciated the strategic action plan. Stating that LMBC intended to share information and things with GMS-BC. He continued that two copies of the MOU of LMBC were delivered to each country. GMS-BC members should sign and send one copy back to CCPIT.

Mr. Oudet proposed that it would be appreciated if one or two activities regarding GMS-BC work plan, which ally with the LMBC strategies, could be promoted coordinately with LMBC. He noted that with the contribution of Mr. Sok Phiseth, GMS should develop digital network and launch GMS business mobile application during the 6th GMS Summit in Hanoi.

Mr. Panitarn encouraged the idea of young entrepreneur network and platform. From planning, with the support from China in e-commerce for example, GMS-BC should start creating platform.

Mr. Moe Kyaw added that improving the access to finance of SMEs, by credit guarantee for instance, should be another focus activity.

Mr. Masato Abe also supported the promotion of young entrepreneur and the access to finance of SMEs. He affirmed that the UNESCAP could provide technical assistances to GMS-BC projects.

GMS-FRETA

Mr. Oudet highlighted the future direction of GMS-FRETA. It is intended that GMS-FRETA will corporate with Mekong Institute (MI). The main role of GMS-FRETA should be the training of truck drivers and truck operators including providing standard certification of truck drivers and also driving school in the region. Mr. Oudet mentioned that he had participated in a meeting relating to GMS-FRETA (Thailand). He suggested that GMS-FRETA (Thailand) should improve the action plan, circulate the update action plan to members, then organize the meeting of GMS-FRETA at ADB Resident Mission before presenting at the 6th GMS Summit.

Mr. Apisit and Mr. Quang stressed that activities of GMS-FRETA required support from governments. Added by Mr. Oudet that the CBTA as well should be amended by the governments.

Mr. Paul mentioned that to set up GMS-FRETA office and enhance GMS-FRETA activities, it is necessary to seek supports from partnerships like ADB, IRU, and Australian Government who providing fund for cross border CBTA.



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In addition, Mr. Sin Chanthy, President of CAMFFA proposed GMS-BC to provide technical assistances as well as human resources in establishing the driving school for trucking.

The 6th GMS Summit

The 6th GMS Summit will take place during 30-31 March 2018 at National Convention Center, Hanoi, Vietnam. The GMS Business Summit, the side event of the summit, will be coordinately organized by Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Vietnam, VCCI and GMS-BC.

In the morning of 30th March, the open session involves business matching and GMS business meeting. To review the work of GMS-BC, the main presentations at the open session will be the strategic action plan, GMS-FRETA, and the launching of GMS business mobile application.

Regarding the theme of GMS Business Summit, Mr. Somyod suggested that the theme should be attractive, focus and clear. They also should be up-to-date, to attract young entrepreneurs. Mr. Moe and Mr. Quang recommended that there should be a separate panel for young entrepreneurs to share their success and experience in employing new technologies and business models.

The policy dialogue in the afternoon will be held with the participation of heads of delegations and high-level officials. On the 31st of March, GMS leaders will participate in the closed meeting, follow by the plenary session which comprises of the GMS-BC chairmanship handover session. Mr. Oudet or Mr. Oknha Kith Meng, only 1 person, will deliver the speech, reporting the achievement of GMS-BC.

Vietnam wishes to invite 300 participants from GMS countries to join the summit. The information of accommodations and logistics note will be provided for participations.

Mr. Oudet concluded that there will be discussions regarding the theme and speakers with VCCI. The update program will be later circulated to members.

Concluding Remarks

Mr. Oudet thanked ADB for providing the video conference. He also thanked GMS-BC board members, CCPIT members and all participants for attending the meeting. Experiencing the way GMS-BC works and the future development plan, GMS-BC and China should jointly enhance more activities.