

GMS-FRETA General Assembly, 21 April 2016

At Eastin Grand Hotel Sathorn Bangkok in Bangkok, Thailand

Notes of the Meeting

The GMS-FRETA General Assembly (GA) was held on 21 April 2016 at the Eastin Grand Hotel Sathorn Bangkok in Bangkok, Thailand. The meeting was held in conjunction with the 1st 2016, GMS-BF Board Meeting at the ADB Resident Mission in Bangkok with video link to Vientiane, Hanoi, Phnom Penh, Yangon, Beijing and Manila. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Oudet Souvannavong, Secretary General of GMS-FRETA. The General Assembly was represented by GMS-FRETA core members and independent members as attached in **Annex A**.

Proceedings of the General Assembly

Mr. Oudet presented to the participants the agenda and materials of the GA. The agenda of the GA consisted of: i) a review of the GMS-FRETA activities implemented from 2012 to 2015; ii) proposed GMS-FRETA activities plan and priority areas for 2016 to 2018, iii) and the Election of GMS-FRETA new Chairman and office bearers.

Mr. Oudet informed that GMS-FRETA has been operating with the support from GMS-BC since its establishment in 2012. In 2015, GMS-BC in partnership with GiZ Thailand has been able to obtain a project to support GMS-FRETA under the EU-SWITCH-ASIA project called, "Sustainable Freight and Logistics in the Mekong Region". The project will start this week with an inception workshop.

GMS-FRETA that is a forum for the private sector to discuss for improvement the logistic transport in the GMS Region has conducted a number of activities, mainly studies on transport and logistics in the GMS Economic Corridors. The objective is to get GMS-FRETA as a regional lobby organization for convincing GMS Government to improve cross border transport and logistics through the implementation of the CBTA and business to business initiatives. One of the aims is to have GMS-FRETA represented in the board of GMS' National Transport Committee.

Mr. Oudet reviewed GMS-FRETA's objective, organization chart and TOR. GMS-FRETA is composed of GMS-FRETA founding members from each GMS country, which are the core member representing the national association in each country. In Lao PDR it is represented by LIFFA, in Myanmar it is represented by MIFFA, in Cambodia it is represented by both CAMFFA and CAMTA, in Vietnam it is represented by VATA, in Thailand it is represented by the Logistic Group of the Thai Chamber of Commerce, in China it is represented by the logistic group of the Yunnan Chamber of Commerce, these organization have set up GMS-FRETA satellite office in their organization. In the pass 4 years the Secretariat for GMS-FRETA was handled by the the secretariat of GMS-BC.

The presentation of Mr. Oudet appears as **Annex B**.

Summary of GMS-FRETA Activities Implemented from 2012-2015

Mr. John Quarmby, Resource Person from GMS-FRETA reported the activities from 2012 to 2015, he informed that the GMS-FRETA is constituted in the presence of members from all of the GMS nations and a board of directors is elected with Dr Thanit Sorat as Chairman, Mr. Paul Apthorp Vice Chiarman, Mr. Oudet Souvannavong as Secretary general and Mr. Somphone Phasavat as Treasurer. The secretariat is located at the association's registered office in the LNCCI, in Vientiane Capital, Lao PDR.

Mr. Quarmby reported all the activities which was implemented since 2012 until 2015 and emphasized on the preparatory activities for the EU Switch Asia Program in cooperation with the Mekong Institute (MI) and in partnership with GiZ Thailand. The project will involves a 2-year introducing environmentally sustainable practices to 500 small to medium transport companies

from all the CMLVT countries. To prepare for the project GMS-FRETA representatives have carried out introductory visits to Myanmar, Laos and Cambodia. The project will run through 2018. The presentation of Mr. John Quarmbly appears as **Annex C**.

GMS-FRETA Activity Plan for 2016-2018

Mr. Paul Apthorp Vice-President of FRETA presented about the GMS-FRETA Activity Plan for 2016-2018. Mr. Apthorp went through the objective of GMS-FRETA and its TOR. He focused on important points specified in the TOR to assist in the establishment of free, fast, open and efficient in-land transport across border within the GMS. This involve improving the transport standard by encouraging investment in better equipment, higher capacity with less environmental damage, better vehicles burn less fuel. He stressed on the GMS-FRETA's 12 priorities and raised a number of challenges to address those priorities such as the: (i) Border Operating hours; (ii) Mutual recognition of trailers on all economic corridor routes; (iii). Recognition of all documents transferred by electronic means; (iv) Access to Finance; (v). Rationalization of Maritime Container Trucking Operation; (vi) Bi-Lateral and Tri-lateral agreements under CBTA; (vii) Driver Training; (viii) Management Training. He also raised about GMS-FRETA initiatives to the implementation of the GMS-CBTA that comprised of works with Myanmar Customs on the facilitation of Mae sot – Maewadee cross border transport and transit system. GMS-FRETA has been looking for sponsors for Vocational Training of drivers, mechanics and transport managers for CLM countries, telemetric software suppliers. The awareness of TIR as a transit option and GMS-FRETA future short term objective focus on Port Operations, trailer Swapping, Weight and regulations was also in the pipe line. Mr. Paul Apthorp presentation appears as **ANNEX D**.

Election of GMS-FRETA Chairman and Office Bearers

Mr. Oudet announced the meeting that a new chairman and two vice chairmen will need to be elected and appointed by this General Assembly. The Chairman and one Vice-Chairman would need to be from the core country national associations and one Vice-Chairman from an independent/corporate transport and logistic organization/company. A number of nominees were presented and the following persons/organizations were elected and appointed.

Captain Aung Khin Myint, President of MIFFA, Myanmar, nominated by Thailand and Vietnam was elected and appointed by all members.

Mr. Sin Chanthy, President of CAMFFA, nominated by Lao PDR was elected and appointed by all members.

Mr. Paul Apthorp, Vice-President of FRETA (independent), nominated by Cambodia was re-elected to be Vice-Chairman (independent).

On the request by Captain Aung Khin Myint, the General Assembly has decided to let the GMS-BC to operate the Secretariat for the GMS-FRETA until other notice from the General Assembly.

Mr. Oudet requested that each country to confirm the name of 2 persons be alternate board members of GMS-FRETA. National companies are also encouraged to be nominated as board members. The secretariat needs to confirm name, full address and contact person from each country.

Concluding Remarks.

Mr. Oudet thanked all board members and participants for their active participation in the General Assembly. A world of thanks was also extended to GIZ for the support to GMS-FRETA General Assembly and to the implementation of the EU-SWITCH-ASIA project called, "Sustainable Freight and Logistics in the Mekong Region" EU.