



Australian Government
AusAID

**Australian Agency for
International Development**

TRADE FACILITATION IN THE MEKONG

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Australia's aid-for-trade role

- > Australia is both a **major donor** (ODA increased to \$3.8 billion in 2009-10) and a strong **supporter of an open international trading system**.
- > Connecting developing countries to global markets is an important focus of our development assistance program.

Mekong subregion program

- > Australia's development assistance program in the Mekong subregion includes around **\$150 million of transport and energy projects**.
- > The objective of these projects is to create better conditions for trade in the subregion.
- > We deliver our support through **partnerships** with the Asian Development Bank and World Bank.

Focus:
Australian support for trade-enabling transport infrastructure in the Mekong



Connecting the Mekong Delta with Bangkok

Mekong Delta Transport Infrastructure Development
 \$33.0 million grant to partnership with World Bank

Southern Coastal Corridor
 \$43.5 million grant to partnership with ADB

Image Source: Asian Development Bank



Linking Laos with its key export market

Northern Transport Network Improvement
 \$18.8 million grant to partnership with ADB

Image Source: Asian Development Bank



Cambodia: key link country

Road Asset Management
\$6.0 million grant to
partnership with ADB

Examining feasibility of
major investment in
rehabilitation of national
rail network

Image Source: Asian Development Bank



Addressing the 'software' constraints to trade

- > Cross Border Transport Agreement between members of Greater Mekong Subregion
- > Australia a key supporter of the Agreement

Cross Border Transport Agreement implementation

\$2.3 million grant to partnership with ADB, funding activities in support of greater cross-border trade, including:

- > training of Customs officials at border posts;
- > streamlining of paperwork to be completed at border crossings;
- > provision of border post ICT equipment.

Future directions of Australian support

> *Infrastructure*

Cao Lanh Bridge in Vietnam –investigating with ADB
the feasibility of a major new bridge in Mekong Delta

Rehabilitating the national rail system in Cambodia –
exploring major project with ADB

> *Cross Border Transport Agreement*

Consideration of a multi-year funding arrangement
for Australian support to the CBTA.