

Australian Agency for International Development

#### TRADE FACILITATION IN THE MEKONG

Phillippe Allen Minister-Counsellor Mekong and Regional

www.ausaid.gov.au

### Australia's aid-for-trade role

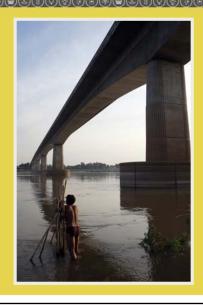
- > Australia is both a major donor (ODA increased to \$3.8 billion in 2009-10) and a strong supporter of an open international trading system.
- > Connecting developing countries to global markets is an important focus of our development assistance program.

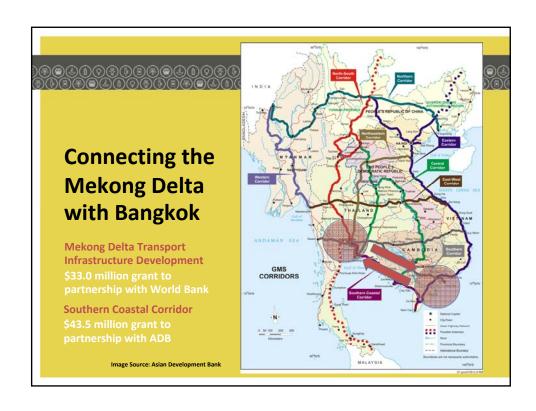
### **Mekong subregion program**

- > 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









# 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

<u>Cao Lanh Bridge in Vietnam</u> –investigating with ADB the feasibility of a major new bridge in Mekong Delta Rehabilitating <u>the national rail system in Cambodia</u> – exploring major project with ADB

 Cross Border Transport Agreement
Consideration of a multi-year funding arrangement for Australian support to the CBTA.