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The Greater Mekong Subregion Economic Cooperation Program
By Dr. Porametee Vimolsiri
Deputy Secretary General, National Economic & Social Development Board
Government of Thailand

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Outline of Presentation
1. Overview of GMS Program
2. Success Factors and Lessons Learned
3. Challenges and Way Forward
4. Building Strategic Alliances and Partnerships
GMS Program: An Overview

- **Participating Countries:** Cambodia, People’s Republic of China, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, and Viet Nam

- **Strategic Priorities:**
  - Vision – a more integrated, prosperous, and harmonious subregion
  - “3Cs” – Connectivity, Competitiveness, Community

- **GMS projects** – totaled $15 billion as of December 2011

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**GREATER MEKONG SUBREGION**

- **ENHANCING CONNECTIVITY, COMPETITIVENESS AND COMMUNITY**

  - **Strategic Framework**
    - 2002-2012

  - **Strategic Thrusts**
    - Strengthen infrastructure linkages
    - Facilitate cross-border trade, investment & tourism
    - Enhance private sector participation & competitiveness
    - Develop human resources & skills competencies
    - Protect environment & promote sustainable use of shared natural resources

  - **Action Plan**
    - Transport
    - Telecommunications
    - Energy
    - Environment
    - Tourism
    - Trade
    - Investment
    - Human Resource Development
    - Agriculture

  - **Goals**
    - Accelerated and sustained economic growth
    - Reduced poverty & income disparities
    - Improved quality of life
    - Sustainable management of environment & natural resources

  - **Vision**
    - More Integrated
    - Prosperous
    - Harmonious
    - Subregion
GMS Institutional Structure

Priority Areas of Cooperation:
1. Transport
2. Energy
3. Telecommunications
4. Environment
5. Agriculture
6. Tourism
7. Human resource development
8. Trade and transport facilitation
9. Investment

Infrastructure Development in GMS (1992)
Significant Achievements

- Improved physical connectivity
- Power grid interconnection, major hydropower projects
- Optical fiber interconnection, information superhighway network
- Some progress in CBTA implementation; bilateral agreements on exchange of traffic rights
- Work on cross-border trade in food and agri products, climate change adaptation
- Increased international tourist arrivals, tourism revenues, MTCO
- GMS Business Forum, MOU on FRETA
- Phnom Penh Plan for Development Management
- Initiatives to address negative externalities (communicable disease control, HIV/AIDS prevention, safe migration)
- Sustainable development efforts to protect fragile ecosystems

Success Factors

- Collective political will and commitment most crucial
- Country ownership vital
- Clearly defined and functioning institutional machinery very important
- Partnerships indispensable
Major Challenges

- Continued development of GMS regional corridors; closely monitoring of progress in economic corridor development
- Exploiting emerging opportunities in a resurgent and dynamic Asia, e.g. linking with PRC and India/South Asia, complementarities with ASEAN
- Effectively addressing soft issues: global warming & climate change, potential negative effects of connectivity
- Increased mobilization of private investments for the GMS program, including public-private partnerships


- Builds on success/progress of GMS Program
- Maintains current vision and goals
- Continues with overall principles and action-oriented approach to cooperation:
  - country ownership
  - equal consultation
  - mutual benefit
  - steady progress
  - results-orientation
  - recognition of varying levels of development
- Anchored on corridor-development approach
Way Forward: New GMS Strategic Framework
2012-2022 – New Directions

• More focus on software aspects
• Greater selectivity and prioritization within sectors
• Closer link to broader regional integration agenda
• Strengthen cross-sectoral linkages
• Rebalance focus and resources
• Strengthen monitoring of Program results and impact

Way Forward: New GMS Strategic Framework
2012-2022 – Building Strategic Alliances & Partnerships

• ASEAN, ASEAN + 3
• Mekong River Commission
• ACMECS
• CAREC
• BIMSTEC
• IMT-GT
• SEAMEO
Thank you for your kind attention!