

**Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS)
Third Meeting of the GMS Task Force on Urban Development
11–12 September 2014, Vientiane Capital, Lao People’s Democratic Republic**

Summary Proceedings

I. Introduction

1. The Third Meeting of the GMS Task Force on Urban Development in Vientiane, Lao People’s Democratic Republic (Lao PDR) from 11–12 September 2014 was held to (i) review the draft GMS Urban Development Strategy¹ and Implementation Plan; (ii) discuss the GMS Regional Investment Framework (RIF) Implementation Plan, monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system, and the results of the GMS Sixth Economic Corridors Forum (ECF-6) in Ha Noi, Viet Nam (8 August 2014) on Special Economic Zones (SEZs) and Cross Border Economic Zones (CBEZs); and (iii) agree on the way forward of the GMS Urban Development Strategy and the Task Force. **Appendix 1** contains the meeting agenda.

2. The Chair of the Third Meeting were H.E. Mme Monemany Nhoibouakong, GMS National Coordinator and Secretary General of the Lao National Mekong Secretariat, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Lao PDR; H.E. Mme Bouattha Khattiya, Vice Minister and Vice Chair, Lao National Committee for Special Economic Zones; and Mr. Khamthavy Thaiphachanh, Director General for Department of Housing and Urban Planning, Ministry of Public Work and Transport, Lao PDR. The Meeting was co-chaired by Ms. Amy S.P. Leung, Director, Urban Development and Water Division (SEUW), Southeast Asia Department, Asian Development Bank. The GMS Urban TF members from Cambodia, People’s Republic of China (PRC), Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, and Viet Nam attended the event. Asian Development Bank (ADB) sector specialists also attended the meeting. The list of meeting participants is in **Appendix 2**.

II. Opening Session

3. H.E. Mme Bouattha Khattiya, Chair, formally opened the meeting by welcoming all delegations to Lao PDR. She recognized ADB’s role in supporting activities in the GMS region and emphasized the importance of the GMS Task Force on Urban Development (Urban TF) in enabling urban development and strategic planning. She also highlighted that pursuit for national development can be achieved through inclusive growth, increasing productivity and competitiveness, improving access to infrastructure, creating greater economic activities, and better quality of life for the ethnic population. The Chair also mentioned the need to combine international and national urban strategy, by widening cooperation in economic corridors. She further recognized the active engagement of other GMS countries to support the realization of the GMS program, before declaring the sessions open.

4. In her opening statement, Ms. Amy Leung, Co-Chair, highlighted that amidst the steadily increasing urbanization rate in Southeast Asia, GMS countries are at their early stages of industrialization and urbanization. She noted that GMS countries and the PRC are now more closely integrated and with the expansion of corridors, there is an opportunity for a GMS Urban Development Strategy to take advantage of the GMS corridors and the investments made

¹ The GMS Urban Development Strategy has been renamed the GMS Urban Development Strategic Framework following this Urban TF meeting in Vientiane.

towards them. Brief backgrounds on ADB's First GMS Corridor Towns Development Project covering urban environmental infrastructure in Cambodia, Lao PDR, and Viet Nam through national projects and other ADB-financed corridor towns development projects and technical assistances (TAs) were also provided. She further emphasized that this Third Meeting of the GMS Task Force on Urban Development will discuss the draft GMS Urban Development Strategy, provide opportunities for the six countries to provide feedback, and discuss the work plan of the Urban TF and the RIF pipeline of investments up to 2022.

5. The heads of delegation from each country were then asked to provide brief statements. Dr. Iv Lim of Cambodia stated that they are happy to participate in the meeting and are looking forward to fruitful discussions. Ms. Minwen Zhang of PRC expressed gratitude to Lao PDR and ADB for arranging the meeting. She apologized on behalf of the national coordinator who was not able to attend the meeting due to an urgent assignment, and expressed appreciation in terms of the progress made in preparing the draft GMS Urban Development Strategy. She mentioned that PRC hopes that discussions during the meeting would further improve the strategy and would be presented in a timely manner during the Summit in December 2014. Mr. Khamthavy Thaiphachanh of Lao PDR welcomed all delegates and hoped that the meeting would be successful. U Tun Tun Naing of Myanmar expressed appreciation to Lao PDR for hosting the meeting and ADB for its continued support. He introduced the members of the Myanmar Urban TF. Myanmar recognizes that GMS plays a crucial role in promoting economic connectivity and would cooperate with other countries to foster economic development and promote regional integration. He ended by saying that he believes that discussions would be constructive and fruitful. Ms. Sansanee Srisukri of Thailand thanked Lao PDR and ADB for arranging the meeting. She stated that urban development requires multi-stakeholder participation, including the private sector and local and national government. She hopes that efforts from this meeting would lead to a successful summit in December. Dr. Hoang Viet Kang recognized the more than 20 years of GMS cooperation. He stated that he hopes that this task force meeting would create opportunities for deep discussions, create a long term vision, and provide information on how to facilitate urban development in the region.

6. In her brief statement, Ms. Sandra Nicoll, Country Director, ADB Lao PDR Resident Mission, stated that as the only land-locked country in the region, the goal of Lao PDR is to become a land-linked country through coordinated regional development of the GMS. She emphasized that work is needed to plan ahead and ensure sustainable development of urban areas. She mentioned that the GMS Urban Development Strategy must consider the development of corridor towns and border towns in the GMS as well as promote greater connectivity and competitiveness. She recognized that this Task Force meeting is an essential step in discussing GMS strategies and formulating agreements. She then wished all delegates a pleasant stay in Vientiane and looked forward to a fruitful meeting.

III. Session 1: The Draft GMS Urban Development Strategy

7. Mr. Richard Mabbitt, ADB consultant, presented the draft GMS Urban Development Strategy. He started by stating that a slightly different approach from the work done before was utilized in formulating the strategy. He further mentioned that comparing and sharing of ideas is important for this meeting to clearly identify opportunities for the way forward. The presentation included a background on previous work on the GMS strategy, highlighting key recommendations given by previous consultants and key discussion points in the first two meetings of the task force on urban development. He also mentioned that the strategy is based on review of previous studies and country reports, country consultations (held in July 2014), and the CBEZ Technical Note for the GMS ECF-6. The role that the strategy would play

in terms of economic corridors, SEZs , and border areas were also discussed. Mr. Mabbitt gave a detailed presentation on the strategy's three pillars, namely, (i) planning and development of key urban centers; (ii) planning and development of border areas; and (iii) capacity development in urban planning and management. He also covered the following subthemes: (i) green development; (ii) inclusive development; and (iii) competitiveness. He presented current and planned ADB projects on urban development in the region; proposed GMS urban development projects; and how each project will contribute to GMS Urban Development Strategy. He closed the presentation by providing choices and options for the way forward. **Appendix 3** is a copy of Mr. Mabbitt's presentation.

Discussions

8. The Co-Chair encouraged the participants to comment, express their views or seek clarification on the key discussion points from the presentation of Mr. Mabbitt. The delegation from Viet Nam commented that there is a need to identify priority border points in each of the economic corridors. They also suggested using a timeframe for the strategy, specifically 2014 – 2022, to coincide with the GMS strategic framework. They also requested for clarification on the concept of having a 20km by 20km development plan for cross border areas. In response to Viet Nam's queries, Mr. Mabbitt suggested that perhaps the task force can agree on ranking priority border areas and putting it into an agreed timeframe, but details on other cities along corridors will not be covered by the strategy at this level. He further answered that the 20km by 20km proposed area is workable for planning for the growth of towns, based on his urban planning experience.

9. The Thailand delegation pointed out that they are currently planning the development of 10 border towns, 5 of which would be first priority. With these comments, the Co-Chair recognized that border areas seem to be of interest to delegates. Myanmar delegation pointed out that their priority border areas were Rullu / Muse and Myawaddy / Mae Sot. The Lao PDR delegation mentioned the importance of including priority border points and requested for support in developing border trade. They also raised the question of whether the document should be called a strategy or perhaps something else and setting a timeframe (2018 or 2022).

10. The PRC delegation requested for clarification on Pillar 1: Key Urban Centers, as they noted that small key cities and towns are the ones that are most relevant. They also shared that they believe that SEZs and CBEZs should be part of the urbanization domain. They underscored the importance of SEZs by mentioning that in 2013, 210 SEZs contributed 20% of PRC foreign direct investments. In terms of knowledge sharing and capacity building, they expressed their willingness to share experiences with other GMS countries and recognized the relevance of providing training on urban planning and management. They further stated that capacity building at the country level is important and ADB needs to provide support to national experts to promote GMS regional cooperation. In terms of the RIF, it was noted that not all current technical assistance projects are included in the list, and this must be addressed, accordingly. In response to these comments, Mr. Mabbitt stated that key urban centers is an important pillar of this strategy and mentioned that country presentations can help identify key cities. Taking into account comments made on the RIF, the Co-Chair stated that this will be considered in the revised version.

11. The Cambodia delegation also recognized the importance of identifying priority border points and emphasized the need to include more prioritized border points with Thailand and Viet Nam. Their comment on Pillar 3: Capacity Development on Urban Planning and Management is that sometimes the outcome of such activities is not significant. To address

this, they suggested that after training, a small project or TA must be established to serve as a follow up. Mr. Mabbitt mentioned that the establishment of small pilot projects can be eventually explored.

12. Mr. Sanath Ranawana, Senior Natural Resources Specialist, ADB also provided comments on the presentation. He mentioned that considering previous experiences and frequency of natural disasters, risk reduction and readiness must be included in the strategy. The impact of pollution on human health and increasing cost of resources, energy, and water must also be addressed. In the same manner, carbon emissions from urban areas and its impact due to urbanization must also be explored. He recognized that the strategy's sub-theme on green development already addresses these issues but he also pointed out the need to delve into these issues deeper.

13. The Co-Chair concluded session 1 and requested to proceed to session 2.

IV. Session 2: The RIF Implementation Plan (2014-2018) and Results of GMS Sixth Economic Corridors Forum on Special Economic Zones and Cross Border Economic Zones

14. Mr. Shunsuke Bando, Senior Regional Cooperation Specialist, ADB provided a status report on the RIF Implementation Plan. He stated that the RIF was approved in December 2013 and contained a long list of priority projects. He said the long list of projects was ranked and the resulting prioritized list of urban development projects was circulated to Urban TF members in May 2014 but confirmation of the prioritization by all GMS countries was completed on 3 September. There is currently around \$589 million worth of projects under the urban development sector, composed of three investment and 5 technical assistance projects under RIF. Four projects are considered as top priority to be included in the RIF Implementation Plan. The timeline of the RIF implementation plan and M&E system were also presented. Mr. Bando also stated that other projects not included in the RIF can still be added at a later phase through the task force and the ensuing RIF Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) System.

15. Mr. Bando then presented the major outcomes of the GMS ECF-6, which was held in Ha Noi on 8 August 2014 relevant to the GMS Urban Development Task Force. The roles of economic zones in GMS corridor development, approaches to development of such zones, and sharing of experiences by GMS countries were covered during the forum. It was further stated that the possibility of expanding the role of the Urban TF to a working group on Urban Development and Special Economic Zones was discussed. Mr. Bando concluded his presentation by emphasizing the need to receive feedback from countries on the RIF Implementation Plan. **Appendix 4** is a copy of Mr. Bando's presentation.

16. Before closing this session, the Co-Chair suggested including the Capacity Development on Urban Planning and Management project as one of the priority projects in the RIF.

V. Session 3: Initial Country Perspectives on the draft GMS Urban Development Strategy and its Implementation Plan – Presentations by member country representatives

17. Prior to the task force meeting, countries were requested to address the following during their presentations: (i) What are the urgent issues that can be addressed through urban development strategies, urban planning, and targeted urban investments? (ii) Where are the

'hotspots' of need in strategic and urban planning? Which urban centers are growing the most rapidly? Which urban centers present the greatest planning challenges? (iii) Which urban centers are most acutely in need of infrastructure to address poor environmental conditions? (iv) Which are the priority border points needing spatial plans? What size of area would be appropriate for an area plan covering both sides of the border? (v) Should SEZs and CBEZs be part of the work of the Urban TF? How are you allocating land for SEZs and CBEZs in your border areas? (vi) Identify locations or activities in which development partner assistance would be most effective; (vii) How do you want the Strategy to assist your own development planning? What will you do with the Strategy once it is finalised? Should the Strategy be dealing with issues not already covered? and (viii) What is the way forward for the Strategy? Any suggestions for more regular coordination and cooperation between countries?

Cambodia

18. Cambodia's comments on the urban development strategy were presented by Dr. Iv Lim, Deputy Director General, General Department of Land Management and Urban Planning, Ministry of Land Management, Urban Planning and Construction. He stated that the urgent issues that need to be addressed include:

- a. Improvement of physical infrastructure and risk prevention;
- b. Spatial planning and (sustainable and integrated) development plan;
- c. Sustainable urban transport system; and
- d. Affordable housing development.

19. Phnom Penh, Siem Riep, and Sihanoukville were identified as areas that need strategic and urban planning; with rapidly growing urban centers and greatest planning challenges; and with an acute need for infrastructure to address poor environmental conditions. Other rapidly growing urban centers with acute need for infrastructure to address poor environmental conditions identified were Poipet, Battambang, and Bavet. Poipet was also cited as an urban center with greatest planning challenges.

20. Priority border points include Poipet and Bavet in the Southern Economic Corridor, and Cham Yeam and Preak Chak in the Southern Coastal Economic Corridor. The ideal area size for development covering both sides of the border identified by Cambodia is 10km to 20 km. He also confirmed including SEZs and CBEZs as part of the urban task force work. Land allocation for SEZs and CBEZs is done through policies, strategies, and directions regulated by the government. However, it was also noted that development is spearheaded by the private sector.

21. Effective development partner assistance is envisioned in the following areas:

- a. Detailed assessment of major strategic urban centers for priority sectors;
- b. Spatial planning and development plan for all the core strategic centers; and
- c. Infrastructure investment and private participation.

22. Cambodia would like the GMS Urban Development Strategy to contribute to national planning and urban development and would implement it, once it's finalized. Issues that are covered by the strategy should not be limited and must depend on the needs of the region. In terms of the way forward, it was stated that the strategy needs to be adopted by the government and contribute to national planning and development of Cambodia. Dr. Iv Lim concluded his presentation by stating that there is a need to work closely among each member country to

successfully move forward from bilateral to regional cooperation. A copy of Cambodia's presentation is provided in **Appendix 5**.

PRC

23. Mr. Lei Zhuning, Specialist from the Yunnan Provincial Government, gave the presentation on behalf of PRC. According to him, the following are urgent issues that need to be addressed in PRC:

- a. Citizenization of the migrant population;
- b. Optimization of spatial layout and pattern urbanization;
- c. Enhancing cities' capability to realize sustainable development; strengthen urban infrastructure, public services and the environment to increase the carrying capacity for urban population;
- d. Promoting integrated urban-rural development; and
- e. Pushing forward of reforms and institutional innovations.

24. For Yunnan province and Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, urgent issues include:

- a. Boosting domestic consumption and promoting industrial upgrading;
- b. Solving the problem of urban-rural dual structure and promoting integrated rural-urban development;
- c. Fostering regional economic development poles and promoting regionally balanced development; and
- d. Addressing the problem of resources and environmental constraints, promoting environmental protection and improving the quality of urbanization.

25. Key areas that need strategic and urban development planning identified include:

- a. Drafting of macro spatial plan for GMS urbanization according to scientific rules, with special attention given to urbanization along the corridors;
- b. Promoting industrial development, creating a favorable business environment, enhancing competitiveness, and creating a vibrant urban economy;
- c. Improving the level of urban management, especially in infrastructure construction and public services; and
- d. Strengthening environmental protection, promoting green, low-carbon lifestyle and environment-friendly mode for urban construction and management.

26. The following are urban centers that are growing rapidly in Yunnan province:

- a. Central Yunnan city group centered on Kunming and including Qujing, Yuxi and Chuxiong;
- b. Second-tier city clusters: Western Yunnan city cluster including Dali, Baoshan and Ruili; and Southeast Yunnan city cluster including Mengzi and Wenshan; and
- c. Other 3 city clusters as regional growth poles: the Southwest, Northwest and Northeast Yunnan city clusters.

27. In Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, the following are rapidly growing urban centers:

- a. Beibu Bay Key City Cluster, including 6 cities, i.e. Nanning, Beihai, Qinzhou, Fengchenggang, Yulin and Chongzuo (plans to hold 80% of Guangxi's population);
- b. Three regional city clusters: Central Guangxi city cluster centered on Liuzhou; the Northern Guangxi city cluster centered on Guilin; and the Southeast Guangxi city group including Wuzhou, and Guigang;
- c. In West Guangxi: 3 featured cities/towns: Hechi, Baise and Chongzuo; plus 3 city belts: the Nanning-Chongzuo city belt, Baise-Youjiang River valley city belt, and the border city belt; and
- d. The Pearl River--Xijiang River City Belt, connecting Nanning with Guangzhou and Hong Kong.

28. Mr. Lei mentioned that planning challenges mostly occur in key urban centers, border towns, and featured small towns. Specifically,

- a. How to optimize the spatial layout of city clusters and big cities, promoting intensive, efficient and sustainable urbanization while avoiding inefficient extensive development is the first challenge.
- b. For border towns (esp. those with CBEZs) and featured small towns, how to apply the new concept of green, low-carbon, intelligent, cultural, livable city in the urban planning presents the second challenge.

29. It was noted that there is a need to improve infrastructure for environmental protection in Kunming. Similarly, environmental protection support is needed in other cities, like, Chuxiong, Pu'er, and Baise. Cities/towns with fragile environment such as Dali, Yuxi and Guilin also need prevention measures.

30. The following are the priority border points that need spatial plans in Yunnan:

- a. Ruili: Ruili National Key Development and Opening-up Experimental Zone, Ruili (PRC)-Muse (Myanmar) Cross-border Economic Cooperation Zone;
- b. Hekou: Hekou (PRC)—Laocai (Viet Nam) Cross-border Economic Cooperation Zone;
- c. Mohan: Mohan (PRC)—Boten (Lao PDR) Cross-border Economic Cooperation Zone; and
- d. Other border economic cooperation zones: Lincang (Qingshuihe [Chin Shwe Haw] port), Tengchong (Houqiao-Kam Bike Te port), Malipo (Tianbao port), Menglian (Meng'a port), Lushui (Pianma port).

31. The following are the priority border points that need spatial plans in Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region:

- a. Dongxing: The Dongxing National Key Development and Opening-up Experimental Zone; Dongxing (PRC)—Mong Cai (Viet Nam) Cross-border Economic Cooperation Zone;
- b. Pingxiang: Pingxiang Border Free Trade Demonstration Area; Pingxiang (PRC)—Dong Dang (Viet Nam) Cross-border Economic Cooperation Zone; PRC—Thailand Chongzuo Industrial Park;
- c. Fangchenggang: Industrial parks; and

- d. 5 key border towns: Ningming, Longzhou, Daxin, Jingxi, and Napo—which altogether form a border city belt.

32. In terms of the appropriate size for an area plan covering both sides of the border, Mr. Lei indicated that CBEZs are clearly demarcated small areas (usually no more than 10 km²) due to various reasons:

- a. Mountainous terrain;
- b. Difficulty of land acquisition;
- c. Difficulty of management of bonded zones; and
- d. Difficulty of getting approval from the ministries.

33. PRC pointed out the need to further discuss the possibility of including SEZs and CBEZs in the work of the Urban TF. Mr. Lei stated that if these would be included in the tasks of the Urban TF, focus must be given to planning, infrastructure construction, management, and industrial cooperation, while strengthening cooperation and coordination with other GMS working groups and sub-forums

34. Regarding land allocation for SEZs and CBEZs, scale of incremental land use for urbanization is strictly controlled due to limited resources, while use of hillside land and other nonproductive, waste land has been encouraged. Reforms on rural land management system and land acquisition system have been carried out for better protection of the farming land and farmers' rights.

35. Mr. Lei highlighted that PRC needs development partners' support in the construction of transportation systems and the planning and construction of border towns, CBEZs, and featured small cities/towns. They further need assistance in improving urbanization planning and avoiding inefficient extensive urban development in:

- a. Optimizing the spatial layout of city clusters and cities/towns;
- b. Determining the scale, boundary, intensiveness and protected areas of cities/towns;
- c. Positioning different function zones in proper places;
- d. Scientifically planning the public transport, energy saving, ecological protection, waste disposal and sewage treatment systems; and
- e. Improving the overall quality of urbanization and uplifting image of cities/towns.

36. PRC views the strategy as a tool that would enable development planning through the promotion of international cooperation on urbanization with ADB, other international organizations and GMS countries, sharing experiences and lessons with each other, and exploring the possibility of establishing more cooperation mechanisms. The strategy will also expedite the construction of CBEZs and regional city clusters along GMS corridors, promote the level of internationalization of Chinese cities, and make Yunnan and Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region into gateways further opening up to Southeast Asia and South Asia.

37. Once the strategy is finalized, PRC will:

- a. Coordinate with relevant departments and organizations to establish a domestic coordination mechanism on GMS urbanization accordingly;
- b. Make the Strategy and our own urbanization plans fit in with each other, conduct joint research on problems (if any) arising from regional urbanization; and

- c. Proactively promote the implementation of the Strategy, design specific implementation plans and policies as per the Strategy.

38. Mr. Lei noted that designing and implementation of the Strategy should be a process of continuous adjustment, improvement, deepening and refining. He further suggested that various relevant issues be taken into consideration and be included in the Strategy in due time.

39. PRC agrees with the proposed strategy pillars, elements and components. Suggested further actions include:

- a. Raise the awareness of the importance of urbanization and promote its status in overall GMS cooperation framework;
- b. Optimize allocation of resources in light of GMS regional integration, promote division of labor based on comparative advantages, promote coordinated development of big, medium-sized and small cities, optimize regional distribution of industries and form complementary industrial chains, so as to bring about an overall mutually beneficial and healthy environment for urbanization cooperation;
- c. Promote participation of local governments through sister-city relationship and association of mayors; strengthen people-to-people communication and interaction;
- d. On top of the 3 strategic pillars, further take into consideration the development of medium-sized and small cities/towns (for promoting inclusive growth and regionally balanced development) by combining the development of tourism and amenity, environment protection, heritage protection and development of the cultural industry, production of characteristic products (F.I. OTOP of Thailand) into urbanization strategy;
- e. Take a step-by-step approach in the implementation of the Strategy, and proactively carry out various pilot projects. In selecting pilot projects, prioritize the cities/towns along the corridors with competitiveness and development potentials, and also the CBEZs, green and low-carbon cities, intelligent cities, tourism cities and industrial parks (in sync with public-private participation [PPP]);
- f. Emphatically develop multi-modal transportation system and raise regional connectivity to a new level;
- g. Strengthen bilateral and regional coordination and harmonization of relevant policies, institutions, technical standards, etc. for urbanization;
- h. Add one more component in capacity building to enhance interaction and knowledge sharing with countries and areas outside GMS and ASEAN such as E.U.;
- i. Consider more public participation. Consult public opinions on relevant projects and measures, and give support to more public services and community-based projects in the Strategy; and
- j. Strengthen supervision and evaluation. Set up a supervision and evaluation system and carry out supervision and evaluation programs to check the effectiveness and efficiency of the Strategy in due time.

40. A copy of the PRC presentation is provided in **Appendix 6**.

Lao PDR

41. Mr. Noupeuak Virabouth, Deputy Director General, Department of Housing and Urban Planning, Ministry of Public Works and Transport, gave the presentation on behalf of Lao PDR. He identified the following as urgent issues that need to be addressed in the country:

- a. Lack of systematic linkage between districts within a province or a region in most of urban development; and
- b. Limited urban and environmental infrastructure and service provision. Problems can be attributed to:
 - i. Insufficient urban management;
 - ii. Little strategic spatial planning;
 - iii. Poor connectivity between urban planning and environmental management; and
 - iv. Insufficient investment in infrastructure and community services.

42. The following are urban centers that urgently need urban plans:

- a. Luang Prabang (northern regional center);
- b. Xay and Pek towns (industrial centers);
- c. Xam Neua, Phongsaly, Luang Namtha and Houaysay towns (center for information);
- d. Vientiane Capital and Kaysone Phomvihane Town (central regional centers);
- e. Viengkham, Paksane, Thakhek (green and modernized towns);
- f. Outhoumphone, Atsaphangthong, Tha Phalanxay, Phinh and Xepone (hubs that link the country to the GMS);
- g. Pakse Town (Economic, Technical and Scientific Center for the Lao Southern Region);
- h. Saravane, Samakhixay, Xaysettha, Lamam (economic towns linking Lao Central and Northern Regions); and
- i. Xaysettha, Samakhixay, Khong Xedone, Thateng, Paksong and Pathoumphone (towns linking to the goods production zones and domestic markets development centers).

43. Mr. Virabouth stated that the following urgently requires infrastructure improvement or development:

- a. Phin, Kaysone Phomvihane, Dansavanh (GMS East-West Corridor Towns Development Project I, ongoing);
- b. Luang Namtha and Houaysai (GMS Corridor Towns Development Project II, project preparatory TA ongoing);
- c. Paksane, Khamkeuth, Laksao, Viengthong, Thakhek, Mahaxay, Boualapha, (GMS Corridor Towns Development Project IV, planned);
- d. Luang Prabang and Xam Neua (Northeastern Corridor); and
- e. Outhoumphone, Atsaphangthong, Thaphalanxay, Xepone (East-West Economic Corridor).

44. On the question regarding border areas that urgently need plans, he identified the following:

- a. Boten Lao PDR – Mohan PRC Economic Cooperation Zone. Both have development plans, but in light of an agreement to develop the areas into an

Economic Cooperation Zone, the two sides are now preparing a Master Plan. Technical assistance is needed to support the finalization of the master plan;

- b. Kaysone Phomvihane (Border with Moukdahane of Thailand); and
 - c. Dansavanh (Border with Lao Bao of Viet Nam).
45. Mr. Virabouth noted that SEZs include the development of new urban centers and small towns and promotes investment activities. As such, SEZ could be part of the work of the Urban Task Forces. He further stated that SEZ development is guided by National Socio-Economic Development Plan and the Development Strategy for SEZ in the Lao PDR 2011–2020 and is aimed at reducing poverty, economic development, and regional integration. To cite an example, he stated that Boten SEZ is being developed into the economic cooperation zone with Mohan PRC, because of the following:
- a. Strategic location as gateway from ASEAN to PRC; and
 - b. Common intentions of the two governments, local authorities, and the people to develop this border area.
46. Lao PDR would like to seek cooperation from development partners on:
- a. Urban planning and management;
 - b. Urban and environmental infrastructure development and improvement:
 - i. Solid waste management;
 - ii. Wastewater management;
 - iii. Flood control;
 - iv. Drainage system improvement;
 - v. River bank protection;
 - vi. Urban road improvement; and
 - vii. Establishment and Improvement of green area; and
 - c. Water supply and sanitation.
47. They view the GMS urban development strategy as a tool that can address:
- a. Capacity development in urban planning and management;
 - b. Effective implementation of the National Strategies of Urban Development and Special Economic Zones; and
 - c. Assist the Lao PDR in the sustained realization of the GMS Economic Corridors to further effective connectivity with other GMS Member Countries and integration with the ASEAN Community.
48. Recommended next steps include:
- a. ADB team consultation with key national GMS Agencies on the revision of the proposed GMS Urban Development Strategy (Preparation of guidelines for Border Area Planning, need assessment with local People);
 - b. Appropriate revision and finalisation of the proposed GMS Urban Development Strategy to be in line with the GMS Strategic Framework and the outcome of ECF6 for further approval;
 - c. Publication, translation and dissemination of the concerned; and
 - d. Upgrading of GMS Urban Task force to a working group on Urban Development, Economic Bordering Towns and Special Economic Zones.
49. **Appendix 7** contains a copy of the Lao PDR presentation.

50. The morning session ended after this presentation.

Myanmar

51. The Chair for the afternoon session was Mme. Monemany Nhoibouakong, GMS National Coordinator, Secretary General Lao National Mekong Committee Secretarial, Chairperson for ASOEN-Lao PDR, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment. Ms. Amy Leung remained Co-Chair.

52. Daw Hlaing Maw Oo, Deputy Chief Architect (Urban Planner), Ministry of Construction, presented the Myanmar country perspective. She started the presentation by stating that Myanmar recently opened up and is still a predominantly rural country with significant poverty. Hence, the urban development priorities are:

- a. Reduction of the country poverty incidence;
- b. Upgrading and developing socio-economic life of the people;
- c. Narrowing down the development gap between urban and rural areas; and
- d. Balanced and inclusive development throughout the nation.

53. Prioritization of urban development planning is based on:

- a. Importance for the National Unity;
- b. Importance for Regional Socio-Economic Development;
- c. Economy, Border Trade, Special Economic Zone Development Potential;
- d. Historical and Cultural Importance; and
- e. Tourism Development Potential.

54. Using the prioritization guide above, the following are urban centers along GMS corridors that urgently need plans:

- a. Kawthaung, Myeik, Dawei, Mawlamyine, Thaton, Yangon, Mandalay, Myitkyina, Kanpaitee (North South Economic Corridor);
- b. Tachileik, Kyaing Ton, Taunggyi, Pakokku (East West Economic Corridor);
- c. Muse, Lashio, Pyinoolwin, Magway, KyaukPhyu (Northeast Southwest Corridor); and
- d. Myawaddy, Mawlamyaing, Monywa, Kalay, Tamu (Southeast Northwest Corridor).

55. Ms. Maw Oo stated that most of the urban centers are in need of infrastructure development to address poor environmental conditions. Prioritization needs to be done based on vulnerability.

56. In terms of border areas that urgently needs plans, she identified the following:

- a. Muse – northeast-southwest economic corridor; provides a sea route opportunity for land-locked Yunnan Province; and
- b. Myawaddy – southeast-northwest economic corridor; links Thailand and India.

57. She further confirmed that SEZs and CBEZs need to be included in the work of the Urban TF. This is due to the fact that in Myanmar, 25% of rural population migrates to cities for better income opportunities and jobs. There is therefore a need to create urban centers and corresponding job opportunities for the migrating population.

58. Land is allocated to SEZs and CBEZs in the border areas through identifying Spatial Development Projects at the Union Level; and drawing development plans with consultation of stakeholders at township level and submitting for approval to the Region or State Assembly. For development partner assistance, preference is given to capacity building and realization of national development plans to be in line with strategy.

59. Once the strategy is finalized, Myanmar intends to incorporate it into their national urban development plans and translate it into action plans. Additional topics that were identified include migration, job creation, and housing provision.

60. Myanmar further recommends for all countries to adopt the strategy and with the help of development partners, transform it into action plans. It would also be helpful in the course of implementation, to provide updates on the action plans, strengths and weaknesses through regular coordination and cooperation to improve the strategy.

61. **Appendix 8** includes Myanmar's presentation.

Thailand

62. The Thailand presentation was given by Ms. Sansanee Srisukri, Architect/Planner, Department of Public Works and Town and Country Planning, Ministry of Interior. She started the presentation by stating that Thailand's strategic location, at the center of the GMS, provides an opportunity for increased economic growth. The country has also invested a significant amount on infrastructure, including transport and electricity.

63. Strategic areas that require urban planning include border points with developed urban centers located along highways. Planning would entail expansion of developed urban centers, depending on geographical and spatial conditions. These include:

- a. Mae Sot (Tak);
- b. Aranyaprathet (Sa Kaeo);
- c. Klong Yai (Trat); and
- d. Mukdahan.

64. The following have medium sized urban centers that require planning:

- a. Mae Sai (Chiang Rai, MYA);
- b. Chiang-saen (Chiang Rai, Lao PDR);
- c. Chiang-kong (Chiang Rai, Lao PDR);
- d. Nakhon Phanom;
- e. Nong Khai; and
- f. Phunamron (Kanchanaburi).

65. Rapidly growing urban centers include:

- a. Phitsanulok;

- b. Khon Kaen;
- c. Mukdahan;
- d. Chiang Rai;
- e. Udon Thani;
- f. Nakhon Ratchasima;
- g. Nakhon Phanom;
- h. Mae Sot;
- i. Aranyaprathet; and
- j. Nong Khai.

66. Ms. Srisukri emphasized that focus should be in promoting sustainable development in all urban centers through improvement of living conditions continuous pursuit of environmental standards, including waste management, pollution management, water resources, water quality, and energy saving.

67. Thailand is looking into developing border areas with private investors, and is promoting these areas through the provision of incentives. Development is currently focused on Mae Sot Aranyaprathet, Mukdaharn, Trat, and Sadao/Padangbesar. It was mentioned that cooperation/bilateral agreements between neighboring countries is needed in order for CBEZs to be developed.

68. Ms. Srisukri stated that Thailand is prepared for cross border area development. However, they would require development partners' assistance in soft and hard infrastructure; social services and amenities; and trade facilitating services.

69. It is Thailand's view that the urban development strategy would encourage mutual cooperation in area development planning; information and knowledge sharing; and opportunities for monitoring and assessment. As a way forward, they suggest preparing a structural/regional plan for border points between two countries; and building a platform for co-development in border areas.

70. A copy of Thailand's presentation is in **Appendix 9**.

Viet Nam

71. Ms. Luong Thi Hong Hanh, Deputy Director General, Department of Infrastructure and Urban Center, Ministry of Planning and Investment, provided Viet Nam's presentation. Ms. Luong stated that Viet Nam's urban development priorities will focus on:

- a. Focal economic regions, coastal economic zones, cross-border zones - national economic growth poles (priority up to 2015);
- b. Urbanised regions - reducing the locally dispersed development (priority from 2015 to 2025); and
- c. Cities networking (priority from 2026 to 2050).

72. Urban development planning is needed in green growth, urban environment protection, urban greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction, conservative urban land use for protection of

rain forest to minimize downstream flooding, climate change resilience and adaptation. Ms. Luong also identified urban centers that are growing rapidly. These are: Ha Noi, Hai Phong, Ha Long, Da Nang, Ho Chi Minh, Bien Hoa, Vung Tau, Thu Dau Mot. While urban centers located in highland and mountainous regions, coastal region and Mekong River Delta region having potential tourism but frequently facing climate changes, are the areas that present the greatest planning challenge.

73. The following are urban centers that urgently need infrastructure improvements:

- a. The northern mountainous urban centers located in the two corridors (Ha Noi – Lao Cai) and (Ha Noi – Lang Son) connect to inland cross border post with China;
- b. The urban centers located in Red river delta accessible to GMS northern corridor and sea ports;
- c. Coastal economic zones and tourism sites located along the national backbone NH1 of Viet Nam or GMS eastern corridor;
- d. Urban centers located along GMS southern corridor served by NH51 which connects to Vung Tau port and NH22 which connects HCMC to Cambodia; and
- e. Urban centers in the Mekong River Delta located in the GMS southern coastal corridor connect to Cambodia.

74. There are currently 3 coastal economic zones and 3 CBEZs which need master plans. It is ideal for these plans to cover issues of improving living standard and housing for the laborers, environment, securities and externalities of CBEZs (such as cross-border migration, women and children trafficking). In Viet Nam, the size of SEZs and CBEZs should be the same as cities class IV and III with minimum population of 90,000 -150,000 inhabitants. On average, one CBEZ occupied at least 30,000 ha of land, minimum size of plan area is more than 10,000 ha.

75. Ms. Luong recognized that SEZs and CBEZs play important roles in urban development and local/national socio economic development. Hence, these should be part of the urban TF in the future.

76. Development partners' assistance is needed in:

- a. Revising urban master plans targeting sustainable urban development;
- b. Setting up urban data base;
- c. Attracting investors in existing SEZs and CBEZs;
- d. Providing technical assistance for Vietnam's Urban Development Strategy (NUDS) to implement the National Urban System Planning in integration with new challenges and socio-economic strategies;
- e. Supporting urban infrastructure development in northern mountainous region, central highland region, cities located in the GMS eastern and south corridors for climate changed adaptation;
- f. Setting up PPP mechanism in urban infrastructure development;
- g. Developing urban mass rapid transit system in Ha Noi and Ho Chi Minh City;

- h. Developing inner-regional and inter-regional waterway routes for urban areas in Mekong river delta and regions with advantageous situation of sea, river, canals, ditches; and
- i. Reducing nonrevenue water in urban centers.

77. Ms. Luong further noted that the strategy can be adopted in Viet Nam if the country can benefit from it and if it incorporates the country's priorities. The strategy should provide investment plan which identifies financial resources and timeline for implementation so that country can combine with national investment plan in allocating counterpart funds and mobilize other resources for implementation. It should also identify areas, activities and responsibilities for GMS countries cooperation, especially in dealing with cross-border issues; identify potential issues and externalities from cross-border cooperation so that the country can be aware of risks in taking commitment; support the development of regional and provincial urban spatial planning that would incorporate green growth and climate change issues; strengthen decision making capacities in approving development strategies, plans and prioritization of implementation; provide a guiding framework to Viet Nam in developing their own urban development strategy; and serve as a guide for cross-border cooperation, setting up urban plans and investment plans. She underscored the importance of updating the strategy every 3 to 5 years so that issues that are not covered can also be included.

78. Recommended next steps include:

- a. Agreeing upon the structure, goals, objectives, strategic areas, implementation strategic actions, monitoring and assessment framework for the strategy;
- b. Seeking a formal member country's opinions on the strategy content;
- c. Setting up country's action plan for implementation of GMS urban development strategy;
- d. Setting up GMS urban data base;
- e. Preparing cross- border cooperation program and agreement between GMS countries;
- f. Identifying country's focal agency responsible for supervising the strategy implementation;
- g. Urban TF members are not authorized for decision making on the issues of a country related to GMS urban development strategy. It should be considered in operational framework of the urban task force in the future.

79. A copy of Viet Nam's presentation is provided in **Appendix 10**.

VI. Session 4: Discussion to Synthesize Country Perspectives

80. At the start of the synthesis, the Co-Chair emphasized that the three pillars proposed in the GMS Urban Development Strategy is generally in line with the proposed strategies and points given during the country presentations. The Co-Chair opened the floor for further discussion.

81. The Cambodia delegation raised the question of why implementation of the RIF is only up to 2018.

82. The PRC delegation stated that it would be very difficult to develop a database in the short term. In the case of their country, there is no clear definition of what an urban center and a city is. So developing a database would be a challenge. Regarding SEZ/CBEZs, PRC policy dictates that in order to gain approval at the first stage, the area has to be 30 km². In recent years, SEZ development planning and cross border cooperation has encountered building of affordable housing as an issue. PRC has experience on this and would be interested in sharing their experience. It was further noted that during the second task force meeting, thinking regionally and not nationally was emphasized. As such, the strategy has to reflect this. Urban planning could be corridor based, but it is also vital to look into the development of multi-modal transport, such as development of sea ports since most economic cooperation takes place through ports and waterways.

83. The Lao PDR delegation raised whether the document should be called strategy or something else for discussion.

84. According to the Myanmar delegation, cross border development entails two sides sharing a common geographical area. Hence, there is a need to come up with guidelines for green development in the shared area. It was further noted that other areas along the corridors would have an impact on cross border points. Hence, the development of these areas needs to be considered as well.

85. Thailand delegation underscored the importance of coordination in cross border areas in terms of:

- a. Policy – consider each border with similar perspective;
- b. Infrastructure;
- c. Recreation and law; and
- d. Incentives to avoid competition between neighboring countries.

86. The Viet Nam delegation suggested that after the urban development strategy is finalized, corridors and key urban centers can be ranked to determine prioritization, starting off with three corridors first. They further stated that there is a need for a clearer understanding of CBEZs and what are the criteria for its development.

87. The Co-Chair noted the delegations' interest on CBEZs and pointed out that a study has already been done on it between PRC and Viet Nam. She stated that further studies can also be done. She further highlighted that as per the country perspectives, all are in agreement with the 3 pillars that were presented in the strategy. However, the strategy needs to be fine-tuned so that a framework to identify key urban areas and border areas for the next several years can be included. Action plans to provide assistance in developing these key urban areas and border areas can also be covered. Identification of actual priority border areas is beyond the strategy's scope however, action plans on how to proceed with identifying them must be included in the strategy.

88. Mr. Mabbitt stated that CBEZs have to be planned together along with all border crossing areas. The Co-Chair mentioned that ADB is currently working on a TA to establish and develop border areas. She stated that she looks forward to working with the group in the next few years in terms of establishing development plans for cross borders. The Chair, Mme. Monemany, emphasized the inclusion of SEZs and noted that the all delegates are in agreement with the draft strategy.

89. The Chair provided additional information on the three key principles of the proposed GMS Urban Development Strategy:

- a. Identify key urban centers/strategic towns along corridors – to be developed by each country;
- b. Border areas – she noted that all countries expressed key interest on this pillar and emphasized the need to include synergy in terms of cross border issues; and
- c. Capacity building on urban planning and management – she underscored the importance of including opportunities to exchange experiences.

90. Detailed plans for the pillars (i.e., identification of specific towns, corridors, border areas, etc.) are beyond the purview of this strategy but can be done in one or two years, according to the co-chair. With the suggestion from the Viet Nam delegation to change the term “pillars” to core/focus areas, the Co-Chair stated that the revised strategy could reflect three key core/focus areas instead of pillars. Noting the need for further clarification on CBEZs, she also requested for the revised strategy to contain a brief explanation on what a CBEZ is.

VII. Session 5: Update and Discussions on GMS

91. The Co-Chair, Ms. Amy Leung, presented an update on current regional projects that are being implemented. Her presentation is in **Appendix 11**. During her presentation, she provided information on the rationale and scope; cost of ADB financing; project outputs; and project status of the following ADB projects:

- a. CAM: GMS Southern Economic Corridor Towns Development Project;
- b. LAO: GMS East-West Economic Corridor Towns Development Project;
- c. VIE: GMS Corridor Towns Development Project;
- d. Second GMS Corridor Towns Development Project;
- e. Third GMS Corridor Towns Development Project - Myanmar;
- f. Grant 9173: GMS Livelihood Support for Corridor Towns; and
- g. TA 8186: GMS Climate Resilience in Cities.

Discussions

92. To facilitate discussions, the co-Chair first requested the delegations to answer the question: “What role should economic corridors and corridor towns play in the overall GMS Urban Development Strategy?”

93. According to the Viet Nam delegation, the role of corridor towns in GMS Urban Development Strategy is significant because urban areas within economic corridors are developed correctly. They further stated its development illustrates that countries can work together and promote regional cooperation.

94. The PRC delegation concurred that corridor towns play an important role in the GMS urban development strategy since they can be evolved into logistic centers and big cities. They can be the backbone of urban development. However, they also pointed out that the strategy must not just focus on corridor towns. This sentiment was echoed by the Lao PDR delegation when they stated that towns not connected to corridors must also be included in initiatives.

95. In terms of the role of the GMS urban development strategy, the Viet Nam delegation stated that it can help support urban planning in the GMS countries and provide advice on how to establish high quality urban plans in different levels. The strategy can also facilitate the exchange of ideas and experiences among GMS countries and aid in identifying priority investments.

96. The PRC delegation identified the following as possible roles of the GMS urban development strategy:

- a. Provide direction to GMS countries in terms of urbanization and layout for industrialization;
- b. Strengthen coordination and cooperation;
- c. Promote to compliment and not compete with each other;
- d. Provide more insight and opportunities to clarify ideas; and
- e. Help countries figure out what can be done as next steps.

97. The Thailand delegation emphasized the need for technical assistance on capacity building for urban planners. On the other hand, the Lao PDR delegation highlighted the role of the strategy to ensure connectivity/linkages among the GMS countries. Cambodia delegation stated that they will take into consideration the GMS urban development strategy while developing their national spatial planning.

98. The Chair closed the first day of the meeting after this session.

VIII. Session 6: Synthesis of the Day 1 Session

99. The second day of the meeting was chaired by Mr. Khamthavy Thaiphachanh, Director General for Department of Housing and Urban Planning, Ministry of Public Work and Transport. Co-Chair was Ms. Amy Leung, Director, Urban Development and Water Division, ADB Southeast Asia Department.

100. Ms. Anupma Jain, Senior Social Sector Specialist, Urban Development and Water Division, ADB Southeast Asia Department, provided a synthesis of the discussions done on the first day. Her presentation is in **Appendix 12**.

101. The following were captured from discussions on the first day as important role of the strategy:

- a. Links to economic corridors;

- b. Links to national urban planning and development;
- c. Increased awareness for strategic urban planning:
 - i. In general (planning, enforcement, and public and political support); and
 - ii. In border areas (sharing a common environment);
- d. Mechanism to support industrialization and urbanization in the GMS (SEZs/CBEZs);
- e. Provide clarity on definitions, such as key urban centers and CBEZs;
- f. Mechanism for capacity development and exchange of lessons and good practices;
- g. Strengthen GMS coordination and cooperation; and
- h. Strengthen country ownership.

102. She stated that there has been no objection to the three strategic pillars that were presented. But noted that additional emphasis has been requested on economic corridor to help focus subregional cooperation and investments. She further stated that the role of other logistic centers that can support economic corridor development was also recognized.

103. The following sub-themes were also mentioned during the presentation:

- a. Competitiveness (SEZs, CBEZs);
- b. Green development (green and clean cities);
- c. Climate resilience, environmental protection, and disaster risk management;
- d. Inclusive development (urban poor, ethnic groups women and others); and
- e. Inclusive growth (regional and national rural-urban linkages).

104. The vision and timeframe were also mentioned for further discussion. In terms of implementation, focus was given to the following for discussion:

- a. Identification of cross-border areas;
- b. Criteria for prioritization (vulnerability, poverty, sustainability, disaster risk management, Priority border area for 2 or more countries);
- c. Prioritization for preparation of cross-border spatial development plans, and investments;
- d. Inclusion of regional investment plan for urban development;
- e. Terminology of document (strategy, strategic framework, or roadmap);
- f. Urban Development is multi-sector (i.e., the strategy could be used to prepare specific urban action plans to implement strategic pillars or crosscutting issues); and
- g. Task Force versus Working group:
 - i. Include SEZs / CBEZs, as it links to urban planning and infrastructure development. Leave software discussions to other forums
 - ii. No objection to leaving the group as a Task Force or an Urban Working Group
 - iii. Terms of reference of Urban TF.

Discussions

105. To facilitate discussions, the co-chair requested the delegations to comment on the following:

- a. Role and Vision;
- b. Strategic Pillars (or Elements);

- c. Strategy subthemes (or cross-cutting areas);
- d. Timeframe (to 2022 or beyond); and
- e. Terminology and definitions (document name, key urban centers, SEZs/CBEZs).

106. The vision proposed states: “*Sustainable urban development in the Greater Mekong Subregion, achieved through cooperation and partnership, with the aim of lifting people from poverty and spreading the benefits of economic growth to all groups and individuals*”. The Cambodia and PRC delegations did not have a comment. The Myanmar delegation stated that the vision is bit blurry and proposed “*alleviation of poverty and promote inclusive growth*”. The Thailand delegation commented that the vision is difficult to understand and would need further clarity on what poverty means. The Viet Nam delegation stated that it is too long and countries would have a hard time remembering. The Lao PDR delegation stated that they recognize the importance of the document and would have internal discussions first before providing their final comments within 4 weeks.

107. The GMS Urban TF delegations had confirmed that they all agree with having the three strategic pillars in the strategy.

108. In terms of the strategy subthemes, the Viet Nam delegation stated that the use of the words “inclusive growth” is a bit difficult to understand, so it has to be explained further. They suggested that the subthemes be directly included in the strategic pillars.

109. The Lao PDR delegation stated that discussion of the software aspects of CBEZs can be left for other forums, but raised the concern of how competitiveness can be tackled if this were left out. The Cambodia delegation suggested using the term “sustainable development” instead of “inclusive growth”. PRC raised the following concerns on the subthemes: inclusive development and inclusive growth are quite similar; and green development and climate resilience are similar. They also stated that competitiveness is not a subtheme but would be better to be put in the vision. The Myanmar delegation did not consider the points identified as subthemes. The Thailand delegation stated that what these criteria can do in the next order of implementation may be different per country, so there is a need to keep these broad. They would also prefer seeing things in an output/outcome perspective.

110. Comments on the timeframe are below:

- a. The Cambodia delegation – until 2022 and no more than that;
- b. The PRC delegation– shorter time period but with updates every few years, as required;
- c. The Lao PDR delegation – similar to the GMS strategic framework;
- d. The Myanmar delegation – shorter;
- e. The Thailand delegation – prefer for the time period to be extended; and
- f. The Viet Nam delegation– 2014–2022 is appropriate as it coincides with other sector’s technical work, with revisions, as required.

111. The PRC, Myanmar, Thailand, and Viet Nam delegations prefer for the document to be called strategic framework. On the other hand, the Cambodia delegation prefers strategy.

112. The Viet Nam delegation stated that there is a need to present the document to their ministers for approval. They stated that this might be difficult to obtain if CBEZs are included in the strategy. In order to gain approval, supporting documents need to be signed and approved by heads of states. The delegation cited the following experiences that may also lead to difficulties in achieving this:

- a. It was very difficult to get the cross-border transport agreements (CBTAs) signed. In fact, Thailand has not yet signed this cooperation document. It is foreseeable that CBEZ agreements may even more difficult to finalize;
- b. Approvals would be easier to obtain if they are in MOU format;
- c. PRC cannot send customs officials to Viet Nam; and
- d. In the case of Viet Nam, CBEZ is similar to SEZ. Noted that SEZ takes a long time to get approved in Viet Nam.

113. Based on the aforementioned, the Viet Nam delegation views the inclusion of CBEZ in the strategy as a potential cause for delay. They propose to focus on existing coastal and border gate economic zones instead of establishing new ones.

114. The Thailand delegation pointed out that the last meeting focused on discussions on SEZs and CBEZs as key points and stimulators for solving poverty of each country. But this is not stated in the current vision. Based on discussions, countries are currently focusing on SEZs and CBEZs as stimulator of poverty alleviation. So this should be clear in the GMS and national urban development strategies. Lastly, they also mentioned that if there is an existing cooperation between countries, these areas should be prioritized.

115. The Myanmar delegation proposed to include potential for economic growth and contribution to GMS regional growth as criteria for cross border cooperation. The Cambodia and Lao PDR delegations agreed with these proposed criteria. The Lao PDR delegation further encouraged looking into enhancing GMS connectivity.

116. The PRC delegation noted that prioritization for cross border area and key urban centers must be separate. For urban centers focus could be on competitiveness and potential to include to economic growth and economic benefits of urbanization. For cross border areas, the following could be considered:

- a. Innovative and new cooperation under GMS; and
- b. Cross border areas must be implemented on pilot basis. Perhaps look at one or two pilots and monitor and evaluate whether can be put into full implementation.

117. The Co-Chair mentioned that ADB is currently processing a regional technical assistance on CBEZ. She further proposed keeping SEZs as key urban areas, and CBEZs as potential development area.

118. All of the delegations did not have any objection in including an investment plan into the strategy and using the strategy to prepare specific urban action plans to implement the strategic pillars and crosscutting issues.

IX. Session 7: GMS Urban Development Strategy and the Task Force: The Way Forward

119. Mr. Richard Mabbitt, ADB Consultant, provided a presentation highlighting the way forward for both the strategy and the task force. This presentation is in **Appendix 13**. Mr. Mabbitt stated that the way forward must be driven by task force members and stressed the importance of task force members agreeing on the GMS urban development strategic framework and its role as it will be presented in the GMS Summit on December 2014. It is also vital for the members to agree on the role of the task force initiative. Mr. Mabbitt then

proceeded with presenting some options for the way forward, more detailed approach of the GMS urban development strategic framework, and the terms of reference of the task force for discussion.

Discussions

120. Discussions were divided into three, namely:

- a. Urban TF Terms of Reference (TOR);
- b. Synthesis Revisited; and
- c. Priority Investments would be included in the RIF.

121. For the Urban TF TOR, the PRC delegation proposed the need to establish an expert group to support the work under the Urban TF. It may be composed of national experts from each country, which will work as a team with the Urban TF and ADB to carry out their work. In terms of upgrading into a working group, they noted that the Urban TF was established a year ago, and in the past year, has already done a good job in promoting urban development cooperation among GMS countries. They stated that they do not know if upgrading to a working group is necessary. They suggested to keep the status quo as it is for a period of time and then evaluate after a few years the work of the Urban TF and determine if need to upgrade to a Working Group or not. They further stressed that in PRC, the Economic Corridors Forum and Urban TF are under different ministries. So if it were to be upgraded to a Working Group, changes in institutional arrangements would be needed. Mr. Mabbitt agreed that the possibility of establishing expert groups could be explored as based on the country consultations, country Urban TF members do not meet regularly in between meetings.

122. The Viet Nam delegation did not welcome the idea of establishing expert groups as they would not have the power to make decisions, especially in CBEZ issues as it tackles issues related to customs, security, trade, etc. They propose selecting priority GMS corridors in each country and then assigning those responsible for each initiative. Emphasis was also given to coordination with all relevant ministries. The PRC delegation responded by stating that their suggested expert group would be to support GMS cooperation in general and not just CBEZs. They also mentioned that they view the main function of the Urban TF to be to formulate action plans and strategic framework, and help identify priority projects and key urban centers. The Viet Nam delegation suggested that establishment of expert groups be done in a per country basis. They further stated that they are in favor of elevating the Urban TF into a Working Group as there are many things that need to be done. Mr. Mabbitt supported elevating to a Working Group if this would entail more status and influence for the Urban TF, to get more sectors to listen.

123. The Lao PDR delegation noted that the GMS Urban Development Strategy has a link with the CBTA, particularly, the CBEZ aspect. They are not in favor of elevating the Urban TF to Working Group, as there are many committees already with varying responsibility (i.e., Economic Corridors Forum, GMS Secretariat, etc.). They commented that as they only received the TOR a week before, they cannot provide any comments but would send them within 4 weeks. They further reminded ADB to send all relevant documents to member countries at least 3 weeks prior to the meeting to allow for internal consultations. The Myanmar delegation agreed with the Lao PDR delegation and would prefer to get documents in advance. The Thailand delegation, on the other hand, mentioned that they would employ internal discussions on the matter.

124. The vision was again presented, but was edited to: “*sustainable urban development and management in the GMS for increased economic growth in urban centers and cross border areas*”. The Myanmar delegation commented that it should not only be aimed at economic growth. The Viet Nam delegation agrees with them and stated that the vision should not just be limited to economic growth. They also questioned the focus on just urban centers and cross border areas, as impact on surrounding areas should also be considered. The Chair then commented that the vision is still long. As such, it was cut to: “*sustainable urban development and management in the GMS*”.

125. The Co-Chair noted that the priority list would be reviewed and updated every year so new project proposals can be included in next year’s meeting. The Viet Nam delegation noted that the projects in the RIF are good proposals. However, they noted that the timeframe is too vague and specific timelines should be inserted. They further observed that the countries get project information from ADB, so they are requesting for information on the project scope and contact person to be included so that it would be easier to raise questions for discussion.

126. The Cambodia delegation requested for additional funding for the *Strengthening Urban Planning in the GMS Corridor Towns Development Project*, which was stated in the RIF. Ms. Anupma Jain stated that this project may be modified to expand geographical and technical scope and include more countries and wider capacity building coverage.

127. The Viet Nam delegation stated that support is needed not just in preparing urban development plans but also in implementation. In the case of their country, there are a number of good plans but implementation and management capacity is fairly limited. They strongly encourage including this in component in projects. The Thailand delegation did not have any comments on the RIF.

X. Session 8: Closing Session

128. The Co-Chair wrapped up the meeting by first thanking countries for their active participation and recognized the active exchange of views that transpired during the two-day meeting. She also thanked the Government of Lao PDR for their hosting and chairing of the meeting.

129. She mentioned that the presentation by Mr. Mabbitt highlighted the proposed scope of the Draft GMS Urban Development Strategy (now called the GMS Urban Development Strategic Framework) and the issues that the GMS Urban Development Strategic Framework can address. She cited the following as the two recommendations emerging from this Third Meeting of the Task Force on Urban Development:

- a. The draft GMS Urban Development Strategic Framework should incorporate strategic urban centers that may fall outside the economic corridor, but could contribute significantly to GMS corridor development; and
- b. The inclusion of SEZs/CBEZs discussions is important within the urban planning and development context; however, other forums are necessary to realize the potential of these special / cross-border economic zones. A working definition for CBEZs is particularly important to include in the draft urban development strategy as a way forward.

130. The meeting agreed with the strategic pillars (or focus areas) and the crosscutting themes and expressed support for the proposed border planning. Additional elements to be

added include: migration, resource usage, employment and disaster risk management. With the update provided on the RIF and the ECF-6, the need for close coordination of the strategy with these two elements was brought to light. She also mentioned that based on country presentations, there are some differences in approach, but there are also a lot of common ground in terms of the primary issues and the tasks facing each country. She took note of the requests mentioned during the country presentations and reinforced the need for both capacity building and awareness-raising.

131. She summarized that this Third Meeting of the GMS Task Force on Urban Development, endorsed in principle:

- a. The draft GMS Urban Development Strategic Framework with further refinement to the draft;
- b. Prioritized list of urban development investments and technical assistances projects in the RIF;
- c. Top ranked urban development investments and technical assistances included in the RIF Implementation Plan 2014-2018;
- d. The proposed revision of the terms of reference for the Urban TF was reviewed and adopted with some minor edits;
- e. Timing and location of the next meeting of the GMS Task Force on Urban Development (Myanmar as host); and
- f. Submission of the confirmed list of Urban Task Force members.

132. The co-chair mentioned that the team will take onboard all comments from the GMS country delegations and would prepare a revised draft in the coming weeks. A revised draft will be presented in GMS Senior Officials Meeting on 9–10 October in Bangkok, Thailand. She put forward a request to all TF members to provide their endorsement of the strategy by 31 October to allow for layout and typesetting of the document, as the GMS Secretariat requested to have the document published and ready by 30 November in time for the GMS Submit in December. A copy of the Co-Chair's closing remarks is in **Appendix 14**.

133. The Chair then closed the meeting by stating his appreciation for the productive session, wherein insights given were meaningful. He recognized that discussions were fruitful, comprehensive, and set a cohesive direction for the TF. He thanked the GMS country delegations' participation and ADB's support, on behalf of the Government of Lao PDR.



PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Meeting Objectives	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of the draft GMS Urban Development Strategy and its Implementation Plan; Discuss the GMS RIF Implementation Plan and M&E System and the results of GMS Sixth Economic Corridors Forum (ECF-6) in Ha Noi, Viet Nam (8 August 2014) on Special Economic Zones and Cross Border Economic Zones; and Agree on the way forward of the GMS Urban Development Strategy and the Task Force 	
Chairperson: (Morning Session)	HE Madam Bouatha Khattiya , Vice Minister, Vice Chair of Lao National Committee for Special Economic Zone (NCSEZ), Government's Officer
Co-Chairs: (Morning Session)	Mr. Khamthavy Thaiphachanh , Director General for Department of Housing and Urban Planning, Ministry of Public work and Transport
(Afternoon Session)	Madam Monemany Nhoibouakong , GMS National Coordinator, Secretary General Lao National Mekong Committee Secretarial, Chairperson for ASOEN-Lao PDR, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
(Whole Session)	Ms. Amy Leung , Director, Urban Development and Water Division (SEUW), Southeast Asia Department (SERD), Asian Development Bank (ADB)

DAY 1: 11 September 2014, Thursday	
0830-0900	Registration
0900-0930	Opening Session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome Remarks by Chairperson Introductory Remarks and Recap of 2nd Urban Development Task Force Meeting by ADB Co-Chair Brief statements of Heads of Country Delegations and Ms. Sandra Nicoll, Country Director, ADB Resident Mission in Lao PDR

DAY 1: 11 September 2014, Thursday	
	Group Photo
0930-0945	Coffee, Tea Break
0945-1045	Session 1. The Draft GMS Urban Development Strategy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation by Mr. Richard Mabbitt, ADB Consultant • Question and Answer
1045-1100	Session 2: The RIF Implementation Plan (2014-2018) and Results of GMS Sixth Economic Corridors Forum on Special Economic Zones and Cross Border Economic Zones <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation by Mr. Shunsuke Bando, Senior Regional Cooperation Specialist, Regional Cooperation and Operations Coordination Division (SERC), SERD, ADB • Question and Answer
1100-1200	Session 3. Initial Country Perspectives on the draft GMS Urban Development Strategy and its Implementation Plan – Presentations by member country representatives Country Presentations of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cambodia • People's Republic of China • Lao People's Democratic Republic
1200-1330	Lunch <i>Venue: Dok Champa Casual Dining</i>
1330-1430	Session 3 (continued). Initial Country Perspectives on the draft GMS Urban Development Strategy and its Implementation Plan Country Presentations of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Myanmar • Thailand • Viet Nam
1430-1515	Session 4. Discussion to Synthesize Country Perspectives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open Discussion
1515-1530	Coffee, Tea Break
1530-1700	Session 5. Update and discussions on GMS Corridor Towns Development Projects and other initiatives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation by ADB Co-Chair
1830-2000	Dinner, hosted by the Lao People's Democratic Republic <i>Venue: May Hall, Lao Plaza Hotel</i>

DAY 2: 12 September 2014 , Friday	
0830-0900	Session 6. Synthesis of the Day 1 Session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation by Ms. Anupma Jain, Senior Social Sector Specialist, SEUW, SERD, ADB
0900-1000	Session 7. GMS Urban Development Strategy and the Task Force: The Way Forward <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Terms of Reference • Next Meeting • Other Matters <p>Open Discussion to be moderated by Mr. Richard Mabbitt and Ms. Anupma Jain</p>
1000 -1015	Coffee, Tea Break
1015-1130	Session 8. Other Matters
1130-1145	Closing Session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wrap-up by ADB Co-Chair • Concluding Remarks by Chairperson
1145-1300	Lunch <i>Venue: Dok Champa Casual Dining</i>

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

CAMBODIA

- | | | | | |
|---|-------------------|-------------|---|---|
| 1 | H.E. Iv Lim | Designation | : | Deputy Director General |
| | | Agency | : | Ministry of Land Management, Urban Planning and Construction |
| | | Address | : | |
| | | Telephone | : | |
| | | Fax | : | |
| | | Mobile | : | |
| | | Email | : | limiv001@hotmail.com |
| 2 | H.E. Vong Pisith | Designation | : | Deputy Director General,
General Directorate of Public Work, |
| | | Agency | : | Ministry of Public Work and Transport |
| | | Address | : | |
| | | Telephone | : | (855) 12 833 411 |
| | | Fax | : | |
| | | Mobile | : | |
| | | Email | : | vong_pisith@yahoo.com |
| 3 | Mr. Prak Sam Oeun | Designation | : | Director of Administration |
| | | Agency | : | Ministry of Interior |
| | | Address | : | |
| | | Telephone | : | (855) 12 729 918 |
| | | Fax | : | |
| | | Mobile | : | |
| | | Email | : | praksamoeun@ncdd.gov.kh |

9 Ms. Du Yi

Designation : Section Chief
Agency : Ministry of Commerce
Address :
Telephone :
Fax :
Mobile :
Email :

LAO PDR

- | | | | |
|----|---------------------------------|-------------|---|
| 10 | H.E. Mdme. Bouattha
Khattiya | Designation | : Vice Minister, Vice Chair, Lao National Committee
for Special Economic Zones |
| | | Agency | : Government's Officer |
| | | Address | : |
| | | Telephone | : |
| | | Fax | : |
| | | Mobile | : |
| | | Email | : |
| 11 | Ms. Monemany
Nhoybuakong | Designation | : Secretary General |
| | | Agency | : Ministry of Industry and Commerce |
| | | Address | : |
| | | Telephone | : |
| | | Fax | : |
| | | Mobile | : |
| | | Email | : mone_many@yahoo.com |
| 12 | Mr. Khamthavy
Thaiphachanh | Designation | : Director General, Department of Housing and
Planning |
| | | Agency | : Ministry of Public Works and Transport |
| | | Address | : |
| | | Telephone | : |
| | | Fax | : |
| | | Mobile | : |
| | | Email | : |
| 13 | Mr. Noupeuak Virabouth | Designation | : Deputy Director General, Department of Housing
and Urban Planning |
| | | Agency | : Ministry of Public Works and Transport |
| | | Address | : |
| | | Telephone | : |
| | | Fax | : |
| | | Mobile | : |
| | | Email | : |
| 14 | Mr. Sonesack N. Nhansana | Designation | : Deputy Director General, Railway Department |
| | | Agency | : Ministry of Public Works and Transport |
| | | Address | : |
| | | Telephone | : |
| | | Fax | : |
| | | Mobile | : |
| | | Email | : |
| 15 | Mr. Virasac Somphone | Designation | : Economic Affairs Department |
| | | Agency | : Ministry of Foreign Affairs |

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- | | | | | |
|----|---------------------------------|-------------|---|---|
| | | Address | : | |
| | | Telephone | : | |
| | | Fax | : | |
| | | Mobile | : | |
| | | Email | : | |
| 16 | Mr. Chanthaly
Chansompheng | Designation | : | International Cooperation Department |
| | | Agency | : | Ministry of Planning and Investment |
| | | Address | : | |
| | | Telephone | : | |
| | | Fax | : | |
| | | Mobile | : | |
| | | Email | : | |
| 17 | Ms. Pany Vorachit | Designation | : | Department of Planning |
| | | Agency | : | Ministry of Planning and Investment |
| | | Address | : | |
| | | Telephone | : | |
| | | Fax | : | |
| | | Mobile | : | |
| | | Email | : | |
| 18 | Mr. Khemdeth Sihavong | Designation | : | Deputy Director General, Department of Export
and Import |
| | | Agency | : | Ministry of Industry and Commerce |
| | | Address | : | |
| | | Telephone | : | |
| | | Fax | : | |
| | | Mobile | : | |
| | | Email | : | ksihavong@hotmail.com |
| 19 | Ms. Palima Sisaykeo | Designation | : | Department of Export and Import |
| | | Agency | : | Ministry of Industry and Commerce |
| | | Address | : | |
| | | Telephone | : | |
| | | Fax | : | |
| | | Mobile | : | |
| | | Email | : | ksihavong@hotmail.com |
| 20 | Ms. Xaysomphone
Souvannavong | Designation | : | Technical Officer, GMS Cooperation Division |
| | | Agency | : | Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources |
| | | Address | : | |
| | | Telephone | : | |
| | | Fax | : | |
| | | Mobile | : | |
| | | Email | : | |

LAO PDR

- 21 Mr. Somphone Khamphanh Designation : Technical Officer, GMS Cooperation Division
Agency : Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources
Address :
Telephone : 85621 260983
Fax : 85621 260984
Mobile : 85620 54011032
Email : smkhamphanh@gmail.com
- 22 Mr. Sakounsit Sengkhamyong Designation : Technical Officer, GMS Division
Agency : Ministry of National Resources and Environment
Address :
Telephone :
Fax :
Mobile :
Email :
- 23 Ms. Khamvongsa Thipasathiane Designation : Department of Cooperation and Planning
Agency : Ministry of National Resources and Environment
Address :
Telephone :
Fax :
Mobile :
Email :
- 24 Ms. Phonetavanh Pathammavong Designation :
Agency : National Committee for Special Economic Zones
Address :
Telephone :
Fax :
Mobile :
Email :
- 25 Ms. Phanchinda Lengsavad Designation :
Agency : National Committee for Special Economic Zones
Address :
Telephone :
Fax :
Mobile :
Email :
- 26 Bousoung Boupaha Designation : Department of Inspection
Agency : Ministry of National Resources and Environment
Address :

LAO PDR

	Telephone	:	
	Fax	:	
	Mobile	:	
	Email	:	
27	Ms. Dalylack Keobanhdith	Designation	:
		Agency	: Ministry of Foreign Affairs
		Address	:
		Telephone	:
		Fax	:
		Mobile	:
		Email	:
28	Visara Khamvongsa	Designation	:
		Agency	: Ministry of Public Works and Transport
		Address	:
		Telephone	:
		Fax	:
		Mobile	:
		Email	:
29	Ms. Amphaphone Bounnak	Designation	: Transport and Techniques and Environment Division
		Agency	: Ministry of Public Works and Transport
		Address	:
		Telephone	:
		Fax	:
		Mobile	:
		Email	:
30	Mr. Eksavanh Rasbouth	Designation	:
		Agency	: Ministry of National Resources and Environment
		Address	:
		Telephone	:
		Fax	:
		Mobile	:
		Email	:
31	Mr Soukpaseud Naluklot	Designation	:
		Agency	: Ministry of National Resources and Environment
		Address	:
		Telephone	:
		Fax	:
		Mobile	:
		Email	:

LAO PDR

32 Mr BounthongKeohanam Designation :
Agency : Ministry of Public Works and Transport
Address :
Telephone :
Fax :
Mobile :
Email :

THAILAND

- 36 Ms. Sansanee Srisukri Designation : Expert on City Planning Analysis
Agency : Department of Public Works and Town & Country Planning, Ministry of Interior
Address :
Telephone :
Fax :
Mobile :
Email :
- 37 Prof. Dr. -Ing. Panit Pujinda Designation : Assistant Professor
Agency : Department of Urban and Regional Planning
Faculty of Architecture, Chulalongkorn University
Address : Payatai Rd., Wangmai, Pathumwan, Bangkok
Telephone : +662 218 4441
Fax : +662 218 4440
Mobile : +66 81 0131212
Email : pujinda@gmail.com
- 38 Ms. Prembun Vorasapakarn Designation : Policy and Plan Analyst
Agency : Office of the National Economic and Social Development Board (NESDB)
Address : 962 Krung Kasem Rd., Pomprab, Bangkok
Telephone : +662 280 4085 ext 3621
Fax : +662 281 1821 - 2
Mobile : +66 084 4330375
Email : prembun@nesdb.go.th

VIET NAM

- 39 Dr. Hoang Viet Kang Designation : Director General
Agency : Foreign Economic Relations Department, Ministry
of Planning and Investment
Address :
Telephone :
Fax :
Mobile :
Email : khanghv@mpi.gov.vn
- 40 Ms. Luong Thi Hong Hanh Designation : Deputy Director General
Agency : Department for Infrastructure and Urban Center,
Ministry of Planning and Investment
Address : Room 154 – Building A – 6B Hoang Dieu, Ba Dinh,
Hanoi
Telephone : +84 804 4414
Fax : +84 804 4954
Mobile : +84 988 050 673
Email : hanhlth2003@yahoo.com
luonghanh@mpi.gov.vn
- 41 Mr. Tran Quoc Thai Designation : Deputy Director General
Agency : Urban Development Department, Ministry of
Construction
Address :
Telephone :
Fax :
Mobile :
Email : tranquoctha.moc@gmail.com

ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

- 42 Ms. Amy S.P. Leung Designation : Director
Agency : Urban Development and Water Division, SERD (SEUW), Asian Development Bank
Address : #6 ADB Ave., Mandaluyong City
Telephone : +632 632 6379
Fax :
Mobile :
Email : aleung@adb.org
- 43 Ms. Sandra Nicoll Designation : Country Director
Agency : Lao People's Democratic Republic Resident Mission, Asian Development Bank
Address : Vientiane, Lao PDR
Telephone : +856 21 250 444
Fax :
Mobile :
Email : snicoll@adb.org
- 44 Ms. Anupma Jain Designation : Senior Social Sector Specialist
Agency : Urban Development and Water Division, Southeast Asia Department, (SEUW), Asian Development Bank
Address : #6 ADB Ave., Mandaluyong City
Telephone : +632 632 5746
- 45 Mr. Shunsuke Bando Designation : Senior Regional Cooperation Specialist
Agency : Regional Cooperation and Operations Coordination Division, Southeast Asia Department, Asian Development Bank
Address : #6 ADB Ave., Mandaluyong City
Telephone : +632 632 5623
Fax :
Mobile :
Email : sbando@adb.org
- 46 Mr. Sanath Ranawana Designation : Senior Natural Resources Specialist
Agency : Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture Division, Southeast Asia Department
Address : Thailand Resident Mission, Bangkok Thailand
Telephone : +66 2 263 5300
Fax :
Mobile :
Email : sranawana@adb.org

ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

- | | | |
|----|-----------------------------|---|
| 47 | Ms. Cristina Lozano Astray | Designation : Regional Cooperation Specialist
Agency : Regional Cooperation and Operations
Coordination Division, East Asia Department

Address :
Telephone : +632 632 4285
Fax :
Mobile :
Email : clozano@adb.org |
| 48 | Ms. Rose Fatima Luistro | Designation : Senior Operations Assistant
Agency : Urban Development and Water Division,
Southeast Asia Department

Address :
Telephone :
Fax :
Mobile :
Email : rluistro@adb.org |
| 49 | Mr. Richard Mabbitt | Designation : Consultant
Agency : Urban Development and Water Division,
Southeast Asia Department

Address :
Telephone :
Fax :
Mobile :
Email : rgm@richardmabbitt.com |
| 50 | Ms. Alma Canarejo | Designation : Regional Development Economist (Consultant)
Agency : Regional Cooperation and Operations
Coordination Division, Southeast Asia
Department, Asian Development Bank

Address : #6 ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City
Telephone : +632 632 4444 loc 70196
Fax :
Mobile :
Email : acanarejo.consultant@adb.org |
| 51 | Ms. Georginia
Nepomuceno | Designation : GMS Program Coordination Specialist

Agency : Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture
Division, Southeast Asia Department

Address : Thailand Resident Mission
Telephone : +66 2 263 5300
Fax : |

ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

Mobile :
Email : georgia@gms-eoc.org

52 Ms. Zillah Flores

Designation : Consultant
Agency : Regional Cooperation and Operations
Coordination Division, Southeast Asia
Department, Asian Development Bank
Address :
Telephone :
Fax :
Mobile :
Email : azflores.consultant@adb.org



THIRD MEETING

GMS Urban Development Task Force

11-12 September 2014 • Vientiane Capital, Lao People's Democratic Republic

Draft GMS Urban Development Strategy



This Presentation

- **Background**
- **Review and Consultations**
- **Change of emphasis**
- **Corridors and SEZs**
- **Border Areas**
- **Strategy Pillars and sub-themes**
- **Projects**
- **Way forward**

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Previous Work on the GMS Strategy

- **Regional Investment Framework Sector Report, Urban Development, December 2012**
Key recommendations:
 - **Set up central GMS database**
 - **Incorporate Urban Development into GMS Strategic Framework**
 - **System of criteria for functional classification of urban areas**
 - **Promote small-towns programme, urban-rural linkages**
 - **Performance criteria for municipalities**

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Previous Work on the GMS Strategy

- **Urban Development in the Greater Mekong Subregion – The Role of Cities in Promoting GMS Sustainability and Competitiveness, Nov 2013/Jan 2014**

‘Innovative measures’:

- **Comprehensive urban database for GMS**
- **Strengthened intermediate-size cities**
- **Catalyse private sector involvement**
- **Prioritise corridors (but reduce emphasis on corridors)**
- **Recognise role of tourism as major driver of growth**

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Previous Work on the GMS Strategy

- **First Meeting of the Task Force on Urban Development
Phnom Penh, July 2013**
 - **Urbanisation is complex and there is no single approach**
 - **Need to share community-led planning experiences**
 - **More developed countries can help less developed with PPPs**
 - **Urban strategy should identify priority projects**
 - **National strategies to identify best locations for GMS support**

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Previous Work on the GMS Strategy

- **Second Meeting of the Task Force on Urban Development**
Kunming, November 2013
 - National urban policies should guide the Strategy
 - Country presentations illustrated the many differences in urban development and policies
 - Widespread need for capacity development in urban planning and management
 - Need for more knowledge-sharing

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Review and Consultations

- Review of previous studies and country reports
- Consultations (July 2014)
- CBEZ Technical Note – GMS Sixth Economic Corridors Forum

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Change of Emphasis

- Review of the purpose and scope of the Strategy
- Not an over-arching blueprint for the whole GMS
- Working document
- Country-driven
- Not just corridors
- What can it do for you?

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Corridors and Special Economic Zones

- Less emphasis on the following in terms of strategic planning
- SEZs will be components in border areas – industrial zones with special rules. An economic tool, not a planning concept.
- Corridors help identify likely growth areas and pressure points. Is it a rationale for development?

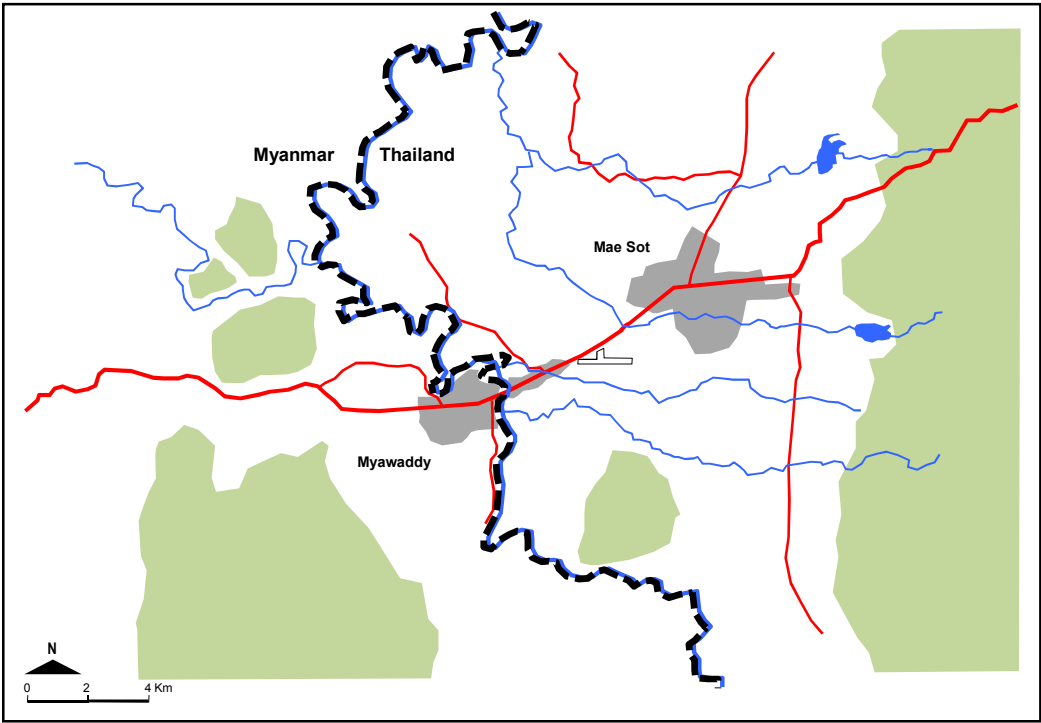
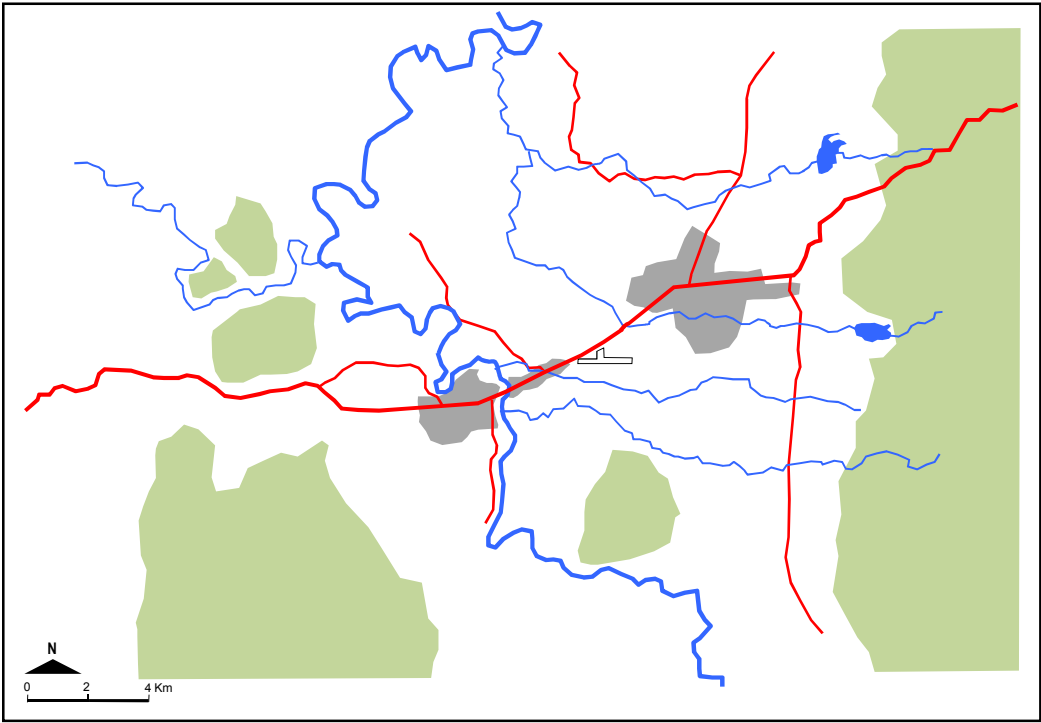
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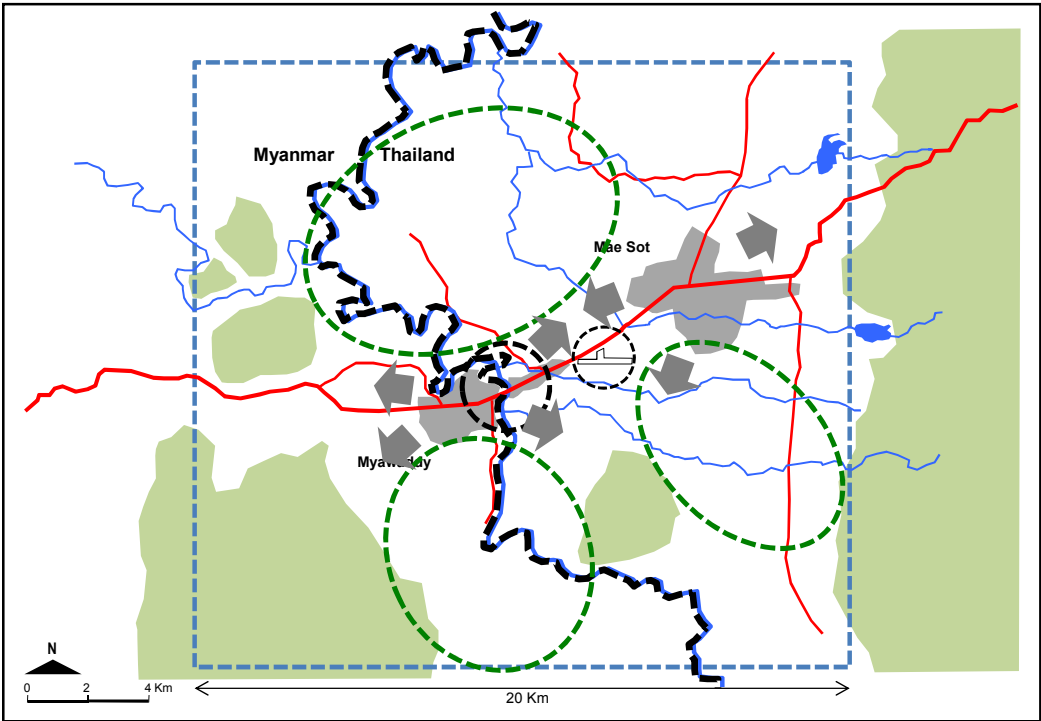
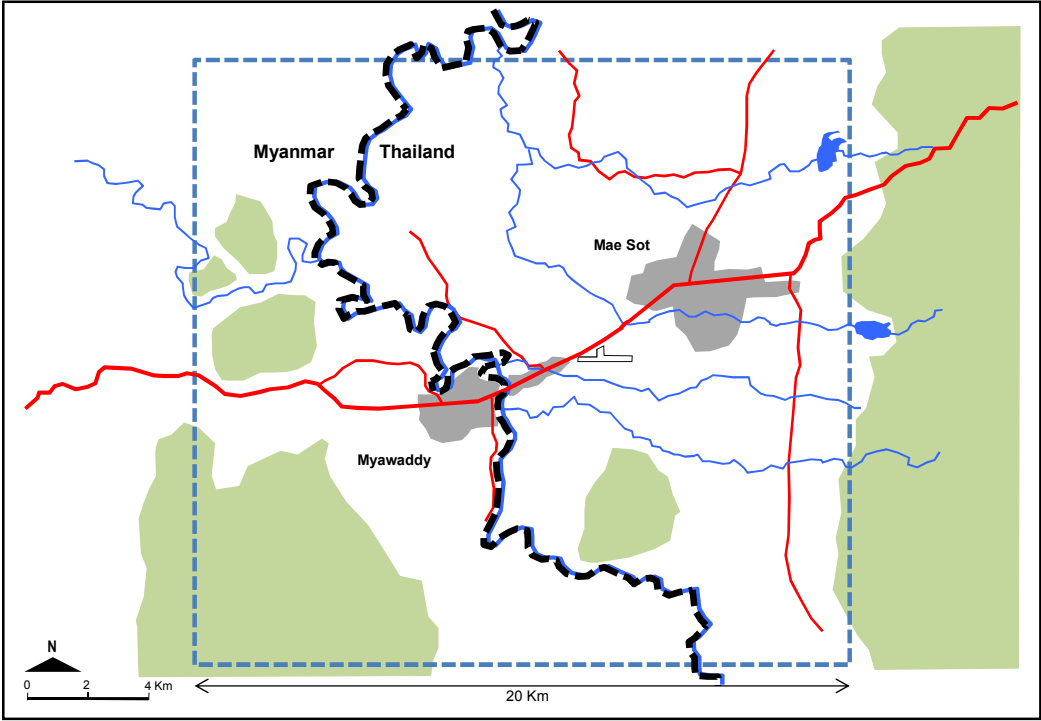
Border Areas

- **Border areas are very important (not just the immediate locality of the crossing point)**
- **Need to look at comprehensive plans of a wide area around border crossings – in both countries – Area Plans**

Border Area Plans

- **Plan area should be similar to that for an urban area – say 20km x 20km (discussion on this is invited)**
- **Adjust to incorporate all key areas on each side of the border**
- **Show key components of land use, primary/secondary infrastructure, environmentally sensitive areas, etc.**
- **Indicate directions and scale of future growth**
- **Identify key locations for industry and other special land uses**
- **Linkage with national strategies and other plans (such as Strategic Local Economic Development Plans)**



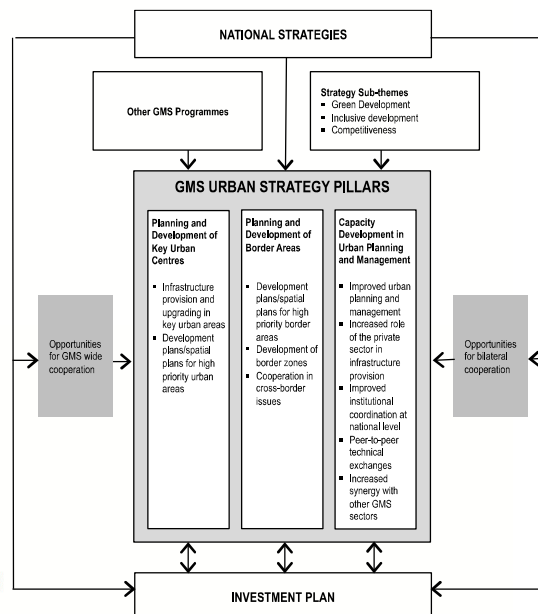


The GMS Urban Development Strategy

- Other than the border areas the Strategy should not try to determine spatial development across the GMS
- Strategy is about common goals and approaches

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The GMS Urban Development Strategy



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Three Pillars

- **Pillar One: Planning and development of key urban centers**
- **Pillar Two: Planning and development of border areas**
- **Pillar Three: Capacity development in urban planning and management**

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Pillar One: Planning and development of key urban centers

- **Infrastructure provision and upgrading in key urban areas**
- **Development plans/spatial plans for high priority urban areas**

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Pillar Two: Planning and development of border areas

- Development plans/spatial plans for high priority border areas
- Development of border zones
- Cooperation in cross-border issues

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Pillar Three: Capacity development in urban planning and management

- Improved urban planning and management
- Increased role of the private sector in infrastructure provision
- Improved institutional coordination at national level
- Peer-to-peer exchanges of ideas, approaches, techniques etc
- Increased synergy with other GMS sectors

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Three Sub-themes

- **Sub-them One: Green Development**
- **Sub-theme Two: Inclusive development**
- **Sub-theme Three: Competitiveness**

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Sub-theme One - Green Development

1. GREEN CITIES:

- **Alignment of spatial development plans, socio-economic plans and environmental policies**
- **Use of performance monitoring indicators for green targets**
- **Citizen's feedback and monitoring system for accountability**
- **Improving competency in integrated urban & environmental planning, climate resilience, energy efficiency and project management**
- **Skill development and vocational training**
- **Innovative financing mechanisms for urban infrastructure**

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Sub-theme One - Green Development

2. CLIMATE CHANGE:

- **Minimise adverse impact of development through strategic and urban planning - optimizing efficiency of transport and infrastructure provision, promotion of non-motorized transport, retention of open spaces, protection of natural flood retention areas etc.**
- **Improving living environments of the poor- facilitate the poor to improve their livelihoods and enable them to choose more environmentally-friendly living options such as means of heating and waste disposal**
- **Adaptation measures through infrastructure planning and design**

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Sub-theme Two - Inclusive development

- **Ensuring that vulnerable groups fully participate in and benefit from urban development**
- **Ensuring that the livelihoods and residential rights of the urban poor are maintained and protected**
- **Particular attention to women and ethnic minorities in the border areas as they are prominent in the cross-border migrant worker group**
- **Access for all vulnerable groups to cleaner environments health care, education and employment opportunities**
- **Capacity development needed for recognition and management of these issues**

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Sub-theme Three - Competitiveness

- The provision of priority infrastructure and services contributing most effectively to sustainable, inclusive growth in urban regions and corridors
- Support for special economic zones (SEZs, CBEZs), particularly at border points
- Fostering employment opportunities, particularly in respect of logistics, and major infrastructure for industry
- Targeted investments in education and skills development
- Technical assistance on institutional and systems development

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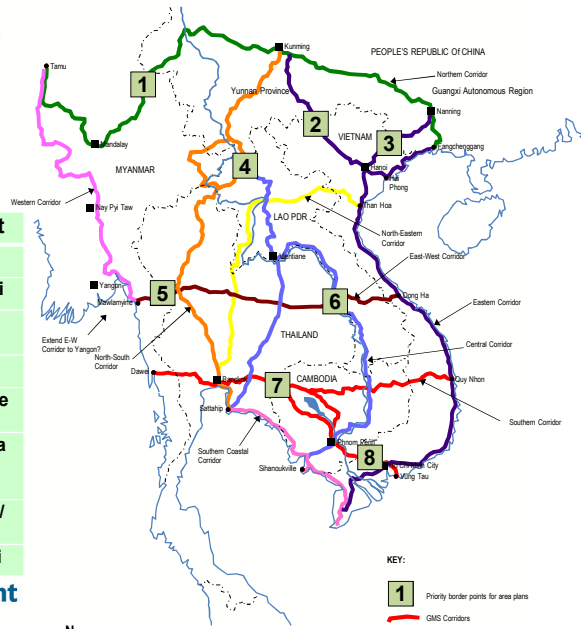
Responding to the GMS Strategic Framework

GMS Strategic Framework 2012–2022 Strategic Thrusts	GMS Urban Development Strategy Response
Strengthening infrastructure linkages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Highlighting and planning major infrastructure to ensure good linkages, removal of bottlenecks
Facilitating cross-border trade and investment, and tourism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Planning border areas to ensure efficient land-use arrangements and synergy with development on other side of the border
Enhancing private sector participation and competitiveness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Creating efficient urban environments in which the private sector can operate ▪ Identifying specific locations for industrial operations and economic opportunities
Developing human resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Creating clean, efficient and healthy urban areas in which individuals can maintain their wellbeing and health and develop their skills
Protecting the environment and promoting the sustainable use of shared natural resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Planning urban and rural areas to prevent urban sprawl and protect the landscape and natural resources

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Priority Border Points

Countries	Border Point
1 PRC/Myanmar	Ruili/Muse
2 PRC/Vietnam	Hekou/Lao Cai
3 PRC/Vietnam	Pingxian/Lang Son
4 PRC/Lao PDR	Mohan/Boten
5 Myanmar/Thailand	Myawaddy/Mae Sot
6 Thailand/Lao PDR	Mukhdahan/Kaysone Phomvihane
7 Thailand Cambodia	Aranyaprathet/ Poipet
8 Cambodia/Vietnam	Bavet/Moc Bai



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Projects

- Ongoing and Planned (RIF 2013 – 2022)
- Ongoing (not listed in RIF 2013 – 2022)
- New ideas
- Look at how each project will contribute to the GMS Urban Development Strategy

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Ongoing and Planned Projects (RIF 2013 – 2022)

No.	Project	Funding Agency	Project Type	Scope/Location	Status	Participating Countries	Project Period	Cost and counterpart funding (US\$m)	RIF Ranking	RIF Implementation Period		
										2013 – 2014	2015 – 2018	2019 – 2022
Investment												
1	Corridor Towns Development Project II	ADB	Loan	Corridor Towns Development (institutional capacity building for the management of public investments, livelihood support, and development of climate resilience)	Planned	Cambodia, Lao PDR Viet Nam	2015-2022	250.0–300.0 54.0 (CAM) 49.0 (LAO) 105.0 (VIE) 42.0 (TBD)	1	■		
2	Corridor Towns Development Project III	ADB	Loan	Corridors Towns Development in two towns in Myanmar--	Planned	Myanmar	2016– 2020	80.0	2	■		
3	Corridor Towns Development Project IV	ADB	Loan	Integrated urban development in several towns	Planned	Cambodia, Lao PDR, Viet Nam	2018-2025	250-300	3	■		
Technical Assistance												
	• Corridor Towns Development Project II	ADB	TA	Prepare feasibility studies for proposed urban development investment in selected towns.	Ongoing	Cambodia, Lao PDR	2013 – 2014	\$2.0	1	■		
	• Corridor Towns Development Project III	ADB	TA	Prepare feasibility studies for proposed urban development investment in selected towns.	Ongoing	Myanmar	2014 - 2015	1.5	2	■		
	• Corridor Towns Development Project IV (PPTA)	ADB	TA	Prepare feasibility studies for proposed urban development investment in selected towns.	Planned	Cambodia, Lao, PDR Viet Nam	2016-2018	2.0	3	■		
	• Cross-Border Economic Zones Development	ADB	TA	Piloting cross border economic zone development, particularly those involving urban infrastructure	Planned	Cambodia, Lao Myanmar, Thailand, PRC, Viet Nam	2014-2017	1.5	4	■		
	• Strengthening Urban Planning in the GMS Corridor Towns Development Project	ADB	TA	Capacity development to support countries in developing strategic urban development plans	Planned	Cambodia, Lao PDR Viet Nam, Myanmar	2015 - 2017	1.5	5	■		

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Ongoing Projects (not listed in RIF 2013 – 2022)

No.	Project	Funding Agency	Project Type	Scope/Location	Status	Participating Countries	Project Period	Cost and counterpart funding (US\$m)	2012 – 2014	2015 – 2018	2019 – 2022
2.1	GMS: Corridor Towns Development Project I										
	• Southern Economic Corridor Towns Development Project	ADB, ADB Strategic Climate Fund, ADB Urban Environmental Infrastructure Fund-UFPF	Loan and Grant	Develop four towns along the SEC in Cambodia to be centers of trade and development (Battambang, Bayet, Neak Loeng, and Poipet)	Ongoing	Cambodia	2012 – 2019	\$47.9 (ADB and cofinanciers) \$6.88 (Government)	■		
	• East-West Economic Corridor Towns Development Project	ADB, ADB Urban Environmental Infrastructure Fund-UFPF	Loan and Grant	Development three towns along the EWEC in Lao PDR to be centers of trade and development (Kaysone Phomvihane, Phine, and Damsavanh)	Ongoing	Lao PDR	2012 – 2019	\$41.468 (ADB and cofinanciers) \$6.260 (Government)	■		
	• Corridors Towns Development Project	ADB, ADB Urban Environmental Infrastructure Fund-UFPF	Loan and Grant	Develop three towns in the provinces of Quang Tri and Tay Ninh as centers of trade and development	Ongoing	Viet Nam	2012 – 2019	\$131.0 (ADB and cofinanciers) \$16.19 (Government)	■		
2.2	GMS: Climate Resilience in Cities	ADB	TA	Capacity development for small and medium towns on climate change adaptation - Battambang, Cambodia; Kaysone Phomvihane, Lao PDR; and Dong Ha, Viet Nam	Ongoing	Cambodia, Lao PDR and Viet Nam	2012-2015	0.65	■		
2.3	GMS: Livelihood Support for Corridor Towns	ADB, JFPR	Grant	Develop market facilities and microfinance access in the towns of Battambang, Cambodia; Kaysone Phomvihane, Lao PDR; and Dong Ha, Viet Nam	Ongoing	Cambodia, Lao PDR and Viet Nam	2013-2017	\$2.5	■		

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Possible Projects

No.	Project	Scope/Location	Potential Country Cooperation (Lead country in bold if appropriate)	Estimated Cost	2015-2018	2019-2022
3.1	Capacity development in urban planning and management	Targeted technical assistance (to be based on needs assessment) to improve national and provincial urban planning capacities	Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Viet Nam	2.0m (TA)	■	
3.2	Regional plans for border areas	Technical assistance for development plans for areas around key border points covering both sides of the border	Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand, Viet Nam, Myanmar, PRC	1.5m (TA)	■	
3.3	Border area environmental improvements	Urban investments stemming from the development plans in No.2.2 above	Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand, Viet Nam, Myanmar, PRC	100.0m		■
3.4	Exchange of good practices forum	Mechanism for regular exchange of urban data and techniques	Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand, Viet Nam, Myanmar, PRC	0.2m (TA)	■	
3.5	Strategic and urban planning	Long-term placement of expert(s) in Ministries to undertake national strategic plans and key regional plans	Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand, Viet Nam, Myanmar	1.6m (TA)	■	
3.6	Study to aid the development of border check points	Good practice review of design and management of border check points	Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand, Viet Nam, Myanmar	0.2m (TA)	■	
3.7	TA on Economic Cluster Formation: Pingxiang and Dongxing	Assistance in better understanding the economic potential of the Pingxiang and Dongxing cross-border economic zones.	PRC and Viet Nam	0.4m (TA)	■	
3.8	Implement the Rail/Muse Cross Border Environmental Monitoring/ Infrastructure Sharing Initiative	Capacity building for Environment Bureau in Yunnan to undertake environmental impact assessments. Exploring of the possibility of joint monitoring of the cross-border environment and cross border learning	PRC and Myanmar	0.6m (TA)	■	
3.9	Explore the Lincang Highway Short Cut. Possible Economic Potentials	Potential for a road short cut between Kunming and Mandalay	PRC and Myanmar	1.0m (TA)		■
3.10	CBEZ at Boten	Development of the SEZ on border with PRC – possible CBEZ	PRC, Lao PDR	0.2m (TA)	■	■
3.11	Assistance with Public Private Partnerships	Technical assistance for dealing with the private sector	Myanmar (jointly with other countries?)	0.3m (TA)	■	
3.12	Establishing green cities in cross border zones	Provision of assistance in establishing and managing green cities in cross border zones	Cambodia, PRC, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, Viet Nam.	1.0m (TA)	■	
3.13	Green Cities Urban Environmental Improvements	Investments stemming from No.2.12 above.	Cambodia, PRC, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, Viet Nam.	50.0m		■

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Projects

How each project will contribute to the GMS Urban Development Strategy

Project/Activity (ADB unless stated)	Location	Urban Centers	Border Area	Capacity Development	Green Cities	Multi-country	In GMS Corridor
Key:							
□ Moderate contribution							
■ Strong contribution							
Approved and Ongoing Projects							
Multi-country							
Corridor Towns Development Project II	Cambodia, Lao PDR, Vietnam	■	■	□	■	■	■
Corridor Towns Development Project IV	Cambodia, Lao PDR, Vietnam	■	■	□	■	■	■
Strengthening Urban Planning in the GMS Corridor Towns	Cambodia, Lao PDR, Vietnam	□	■	■	■	■	■
Cross-Border Economic Zones Development	Viet Nam, PRC, Thailand, Cambodia, Lao PDR	■	■	□	■	■	■
Cambodia							
GMS Southern Economic Corridor Towns Development	Battambang, Poipet, Neaklœung	■	□	□	■	■	■
Urban Water Supply and Sanitation	National	■	■	■	■	■	■
Capacity Development for Urban Management	National	■	■	■	■	■	■
Integrated Urban Environmental Management in the Tonle Sap Basin	Pursat, Kampong Chhnang, Tonle Sap	■	■	■	■	■	■
Urban Water Supply Systems (JICA)	Battambang, Kampong Cham, Kampong Thom, Kampot, Pursat, Siem Reap, Sihanoukville, SvayRieng	■	■	■	■	■	■
National Road No.5 Improvement Project (JICA)	Battambang to SereiSaophoan	□	■	■	■	■	■
Greater Phnom Penh Water Supply System (AFD)	Phnom Penh	■	■	□	■	■	■
PRC							
Yunnan Chuxiong Urban Environment Improvement	Chuxiong	■	□	■	■	■	□
Guangxi Beibu Gulf Cities Development	Gulf of Beibu	■	□	□	■	■	□

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Choices for the Way Forward

- **Must be driven by Task Force Members**
- **Important for TF members to agree on the GMS Urban Development Strategy and its role**
 - **Identified as a key deliverable to be presented to the Ministers at the GMS Summit in December 2014**
- **Important for Urban TF members to agree on the role of the Task Force initiative**

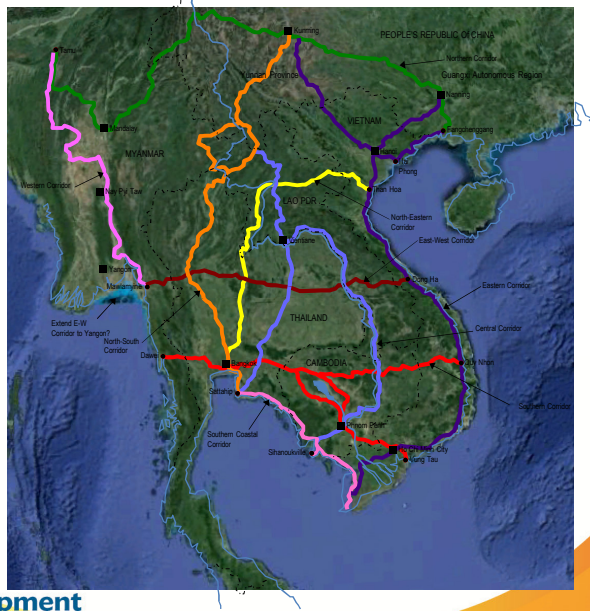
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Some Options for the Way Forward

- **Develop the overall Strategy itself further – criteria checklist for national projects?**
- **Develop some aspects of the GMS Strategy in more detail**
- **Review national implications of the Strategy in more detail**
- **Regional training program for urban planning and management**
- **Formalization of a GMS Databank (Based where? Who would manage it?)**
- **GMS Urban Data Book?**
- **Upgrade Task Force to a Working Group (Urban Development and Special Economic Zones?)**

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Status Report on RIF Implementation Plan (2014-2018) and Outcomes of the 6th GMS Economic Corridor Forum

Status Report on RIF Implementation Plan (2014-2018)

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Preparation of the RIF Implementation Plan

- Preliminary prioritization of sector pipeline projects done by ADB sector divisions
- Prioritized projects lists presented/discussed at sector working groups and/or circulated to working groups for confirmation
- ➔ **URBAN DEV'T List** circulated to **URBAN Task Force**
- As of 21 Aug, confirmation has been secured for 6 out of 10 RIF Sectors.
- Confirmation for the 4 pending sectors (including Urban Development) is supposed to be secured by 3

September

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Urban Development Top ranked Priority Projects (RIF IP 2014-2018)

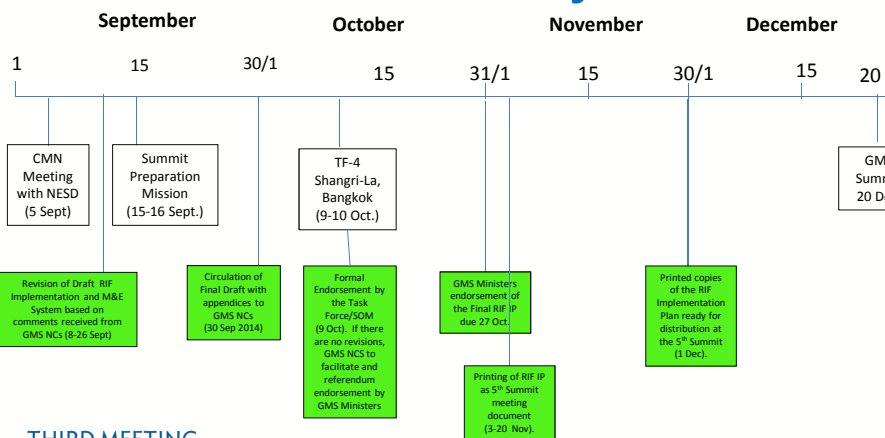
	Name of Project	Country Coverage	Cost Estimate (\$ million)
Investment Projects			
1	Corridor Towns Development Project II	Cambodia, Lao PDR, Viet Nam	250.0-300.0
2	Corridor Towns Development Project III	Myanmar	80.0
Technical Assistance Projects			
1	PPTA for Corridor Towns Development Project II	Cambodia, Lao PDR, Viet Nam	2.0
2	PPTA for Corridor Towns Development Project III	Myanmar	1.5

Preparation of the RIF Implementation Plan

- **Prioritized sector lists and context write-ups will form part of RIF Implementation Plan paper**
- **Top highest ranked projects per sector with project summaries to be included in Implementation Plan**
- **Draft RIF Implementation Plan and M&E System paper circulated to GMS NCs for review on 21 Aug and targeted to be finalized for GMS Ministers' endorsement by end of October 2014**

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Timeline of the RIF Implementation Plan and M&E System



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Proposed Elements of the M&E System

Objectives

- To provide a regular mechanism for determining and assessing progress in the IP
- To support the periodic review and updating of the Plan
- To identify problems and bottlenecks in implementing projects
- To provide feedback and guidance in the identification and formulation of new initiatives

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Proposed Elements of the M&E System

Components

- Milestones and indicators for monitoring progress of proposed projects
- Institutional arrangements and mechanisms for collecting, analyzing, collating and reporting project information
- Agreed procedures, frequency and timing of collection and reporting

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Proposed Elements of the M&E System

Milestones/Indicators

- **Pre-feasibility study (on-going; completed)**
- **Feasibility study (on-going; completed)**
- **Financing (source identified; financing being negotiated; agreement on financing reached)**
- **Approval (project submitted for approval; project approved)**
- **Implementation (prior conditions for commencement completed; implementation commenced)**

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Proposed Elements of the M&E System

Institutional Arrangements

Task/Activity	Responsible GMS Body
1. Preparation of progress report for individual projects.	Executing agency (EA)
2. Collation and review of project progress reports	GMS National Secretariats
3. Preparation of consolidated RIF and RIF IP progress report based on the reports from the National Secretariats.	GMS Secretariat
4. Consideration and review of RIF and RIF IP progress report by individual sectors including recommendations for amendments to the RIF and RIF IP if there are any	Working Group or Forum
5. Consideration of RIF and RIF IP progress report and endorsement of proposed amendments in RIF and RIF IP if there are any	Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) Ministerial Conference
6. Presentation of overall RIF and RIF IP progress report to the GMS Leaders for notation	GMS Summit Meeting

Proposed Elements of the M&E System

Timing and Schedule

A regular, “unified” and “synchronized” schedule for monitoring progress

- Bi-annual progress reports to be presented to SOM;
- Consolidated annual report, including proposed updates/amendments on the RIF and RIF IP, if there are any, to be presented to MM for endorsement;
- Updated RIF and RIF IP progress report to be presented for notation by the GMS Summit ;
- Mid-term review of RIF and preparation of Implementation Plan for 2019-2022 in 2018

Outcomes of the 6th GMS Economic Corridor Forum

Major Outcomes of the 6th Economic Corridors Forum

- ECF held on 8 August 2014 in Ha Noi
- Theme: *Developing Economic Corridors through Transport and Trade Facilitation & Economic Zones*
- The Forum
 - reviewed ECF and determined its strategic directions in the medium term,
 - reviewed GMS CBTA/TTF to chart the future of TTF, and
 - discussed role of economic zones in GMS corridor development, approaches to development of such zones and sharing of experiences by GMS countries

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Major Outcomes of the 6th Economic Corridors Forum

- Special Economic Zones (SEZ) and Cross-Border Economic Zones (CBEZ) recognized as potentially effective instruments for GMS Economic Corridor Development
- SEZ proven beneficial at country level but there is a need to make relevant to GMS as a whole
- There are emerging success on CBEZ but need effective institutional arrangements and greater planning
- A key success factor is political will
- Expanding the role of the Urban TF to a working group on Urban Development and Special Economic Zones as a possible institutional mechanism under ECF

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Country Presentation

Cambodia

by LIM, Pisith VONG, Samoeun PRAK

The Urban Development Priorities for Cambodia

- What are the urgent issues that can be addressed through urban development strategies, urban planning, and targeted urban investments?
- **Improvement of physical infrastructure and risk prevention** (transport network, water supply, electricity network, flood protection, waste management, etc.)
- **Spatial planning and (sustainable and integrated) development plan** (at national, regional, economic corridor, etc.)
- **Sustainable urban transport system** (esp. in Phnom Penh and Siem Reap)
- **Affordable housing development** (esp. for disadvantaged and vulnerable urban communities)

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Urban Centers Urgently Needing Development Plans

- Where are the 'hotspots' of need in strategic and urban planning?
 - **Phnom Penh, Siem Reap and Sihanoukville.**
- Which urban centers are growing the most rapidly?
 - **Phnom Penh, Siem Reap and Sihanoukville (Poipet, Battambang and Bavet are also significant).**
- Which urban centers present the greatest planning challenges?
 - **Phnom Penh, Siem Reap, Sihanoukville, Poipet, etc.**

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Urban Centers Urgently Needing Infrastructure/Improvements

- Which urban centers are most acutely in need of infrastructure to address poor environmental conditions?
 - **Phnom Penh, Siem Reap and Sihanoukville, Poipet, Battambang, Bavet, etc.**

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Border Areas Urgently Needing Plans

- Which are the priority border points needing spatial plans?
 - **Poipet town (on the border with Thailand)**
 - **Bavet town (on the border with Viet Nam)**
- What size of area would be appropriate for an area plan covering both sides of the border?
 - **10 to 20 km**

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SEZs and CBEZs

- Should SEZs and CBEZs be part of the work of the Urban Task Forces?
 - **Yes. We need to cooperate with the existing mechanism in some specialized areas.**
- How are you allocating land for SEZs and CBEZs in your border areas?
 - **Policies, strategies, and directions are regulated by the government.**
 - **Most SEZs and CBEZs are developed by the private sector based on the regional economic competitiveness.**

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Priorities for Development Partner Assistance in the Urban Sector

- Identify locations or activities in which Development Partner assistance would be most effective
 - Major strategic urban centers for the priority sectors. Detailed assessment is needed.
 - Spatial planning and development plan for all the core strategic centers.
 - Infrastructure investment and private participation

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What the Strategy Should do for Cambodia

- How do you want the Strategy to assist your own development planning?
 - To be a strategy contributed to the national planning and development of Cambodia.
- What will you do with the Strategy once it is finalised?
 - We should implement what have been elaborated and finalised.
- Should the Strategy be dealing with issues not already covered?
 - It should not be limited, depending on the needs.

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Recommended Next Steps for the Strategy

- What is the Way Forward for the Strategy?
 - Need to be adopted by the government.
 - To be a strategy contributed to the national planning and development of Cambodia.
- Any suggestions for more regular coordination and cooperation between countries?
 - We need to work more closely among each members (from bilateral forward to regional cooperation).

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Cambodia Task Force

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Country Presentation

P.R.China

Presenter: Mr. Lei Zhuning

The Urban Development Priorities for China

- ❑ **What are the urgent issues that can be addressed through urban development strategies, urban planning, and targeted urban investments?**
 - China attaches great importance to urbanization.
 - Relevant urbanization plans have been published in recent months, including:
 - The state-level new-type urbanization plan (Mar. 2014);
 - Yunnan new-type urbanization plan (Apr. 2014);
 - Guangxi new-type urbanization plan (July 2014).
 - Major characteristics of the "new-type urbanization" of China: a people-centered, sustainable, balanced, and comprehensive urbanization strategy.

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The Urban Development Priorities for China

- The new-type urbanization strategy is intended to accomplish the following key tasks at nationwide:
 1. **Carry out citizenization of the migrant population** from rural area in an orderly way, and reform of household registration system and sharing of basic public service among citizens;
 2. **Optimize the spatial layout and pattern of urbanization** with city clusters as the main pattern in urban spatial layout, and promote coordinated and balanced development of big, medium-sized and small cities/town;
 3. **Enhance cities' capability** to realize sustainable development; strengthen urban infrastructure, public services and the environment to increase the carrying capacity for urban population;
 4. **Promote integrated urban-rural development**, allowing rural residents to participate in the modernization process and enjoy fruits of development equally;
 5. **Push forward reforms and institutional innovations** on relevant systems and mechanisms, creating a favorable institutional environment for urbanization.

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The Urban Development Priorities for China

- As to Yunnan and Guangxi, promoting the new-type urbanization is a major measure to accelerate development and transform development mode. It is conducive to:
 1. boosting domestic consumption and promoting industrial upgrading, pushing forward urbanization in sync with new-type industrialization, informatization and agriculture modernization;
 2. solving the problem of urban-rural dual structure and promoting integrated rural-urban development;
 3. fostering regional economic development poles and promoting regionally balanced development;
 4. addressing the problem of resources and environmental constraints, promoting environmental protection and improving the quality of urbanization.

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Urban Centers Urgently Needing Development Plans

□ Where are the 'hotspots' of need in strategic and urban planning?

- The suggested 'hotspots' or key areas that need development planning in GMS are listed as below:
 1. Draft the macro spatial plan for GMS urbanization according to scientific rules, with special attention given to urbanization along the corridors;
 2. Promote industrial development, create a favorable business environment, enhance the competitiveness and create a vibrant urban economy;
 3. Improve the level of urban management, especially in infrastructure construction and public services;
 4. Strengthen environmental protection, promote green, low-carbon lifestyle and environment-friendly mode for urban construction and management.

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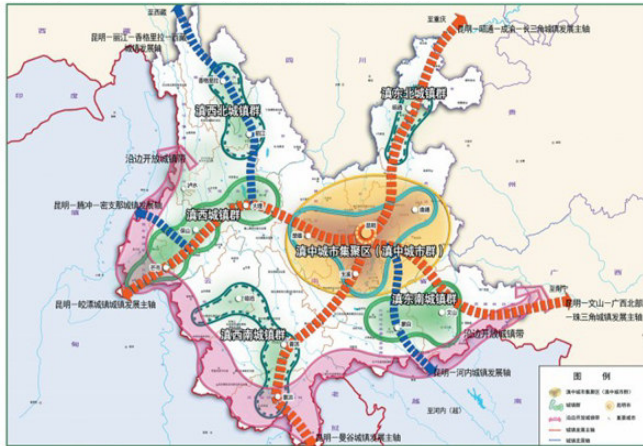
Urban Centers Urgently Needing Development Plans

□ Which urban centers are growing the most rapidly?

- **Yunnan:** Pursuing a people-centered, city-cluster oriented, coordinated urbanization strategy, esp. featuring in hill towns, border towns and ethnic towns.
 1. The Central Yunnan city group centered on Kunming and including Qujing, Yuxi and Chuxiong;
 2. 2 second-tier city clusters: the Western Yunnan city cluster including Dali, Baoshan and Ruili; and the Southeast Yunnan city cluster including Mengzi and Wenshan;
 3. Other 3 city clusters as regional growth poles: the Southwest, Northwest and Northeast Yunnan city clusters.

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Urban Spatial Planning of Yunnan 2014-2020: "1 core + 1 belt + 5 clusters + 7 corridors"



- **1 core:** Central Yunnan city cluster
- **1 belt:** border urban belt
- **5 city clusters:** the West, Southeast, Northeast, Southwest, and Northwest Yunnan clusters
- **7 corridors:** 4 outbound and 3 domestic economic corridors

03/10/2016

Urban Centers Urgently Needing Development Plans

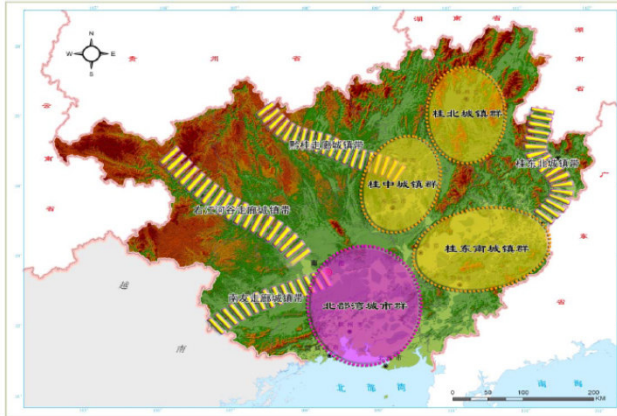
□ Which urban centers are growing the most rapidly?(continued)

- **Guangxi:** stick to city-cluster oriented spatial planning, and coordinated, balanced development of big, medium-sized and small cities.
 1. The Beibu Bay Key City Cluster, including 6 cities, i.e. Nanning, Beihai, Qinzhou, Fengchenggang, Yulin and Chongzuo (plans to hold 80% of Guangxi' s population);
 2. 3 regional city clusters: Central Guangxi city cluster centered on Liuzhou; the Northern Guangxi city cluster centered on Guilin; and the Southeast Guangxi city group including Wuzhou, and Guigang;
 3. In West Guangxi: 3 featured cities/towns: Hechi, Baise and Chongzuo; plus 3 city belts: the Nanning-Chongzuo city belt, Baise-Youjiang River valley city belt, and the border city belt.
 4. The Pearl River--Xijiang River City Belt, connecting Nanning with Guangzhou and Hong Kong.

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Urban Spatial Planning of Guangxi 2013-2020: "4 clusters + 4 belts"



- **4 city clusters:**
Beibu Bay City Key Cluster centered on Nanning, and Central, Northern and Southeast Guangxi city clusters.
- **4 city belts**
- **The Border City Belt**
- **The Pearl River-Xijiang River City Belt**

03/10/2016

Urban Centers Urgently Needing Development Plans

□ Which urban centers present the greatest planning challenges?

- Planning challenges mostly lie in the planning of key urban centers, as well as border towns and featured small towns.
 - **Challenge One:** For big cities and city clusters, the spatial layout can hardly match with the (limited) carrying capacity of resources and environment, the urban scale and structure are not reasonable, and the problem of “urban disease” becomes prominent. How to optimize the spatial layout of city clusters and big cities, promoting intensive, efficient and sustainable urbanization while avoiding inefficient extensive development ?
 - **Challenge Two:** For border towns (esp. those with CBEZs) and featured small towns, how to apply the new concept of green, low-carbon, intelligent, cultural, livable city in the urban planning ?

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Urban Centers Urgently Needing Infrastructure/Improvements

□ Which urban centers are most acutely in need of infrastructure to address poor environmental conditions?

- **Kunming:** need to improve the infrastructure for environmental protection.
 - A case in point is the heavily polluted Dianchi Lake by Kunming: fast urbanization and industrialization have brought about pollution of the water system of the city. Emphasis should be given to establishment of advanced, highly effective, and environment-friendly waste and sewage treatment system. This is also relevant for cities/towns with limited environment protection capacity in GMS.
- Support in environment protection for other cities, such as Chuxiong, Pu'er, Baise is also necessary;
- Prevention measures should also be given to cities/towns with fragile environment such as Dali, Yuxi and Guilin.

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Border Areas Urgently Needing Plans

□ Which are the priority border points needing spatial plans?

- **Yunnan:**
 - **Ruili:** Ruili National Key Development and Opening-up Experimental Zone, Ruili(China)-Muse(Myanmar) Cross-border Economic Cooperation Zone;
 - **Hekou:** Hekou(China)--Laocai(Vietnam) Cross-border Economic Cooperation Zone;
 - **Mohan:** Mohan(China)--Boten(Lao PDR) Cross-border Economic Cooperation Zone;
 - Other border economic cooperation zones: Lincang(Qingshuihe [Chin Shwe Haw] port), Tengchong(Houqiao-Kam Bike Te port), Malipo(Tianbao port), Menglian(Meng' a port), Lushui(Pianma port).

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Border Areas Urgently Needing Plans

□ Which are the priority border points needing spatial plans? (continued)

■ Guangxi:

- **Dongxing:** The Dongxing National Key Development and Opening-up Experimental Zone; Dongxing(China)--Mong Cai(Vietnam) Cross-border Economic Cooperation Zone;
- **Pingxiang:** Pingxiang Border Free Trade Demonstration Area; Pingxiang(China)--Dong Dang(Vietnam) Cross-border Economic Cooperation Zone; China-Thailand Chongzuo Industrial Park;
- **Fangchenggang:** Industrial parks;
- Plus other 5 key border towns: Ningming, Longzhou, Daxin, Jingxi, and Napo -- which altogether form a border city belt.

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Border Areas Urgently Needing Plans

□ What size of area would be appropriate for an area plan covering both sides of the border?

- The area designated for cross-border cooperation usually could be divided into 3 parts, i.e. the core part (CBEZ), supporting area and radiation area.
- In Yunnan and Guangxi's case, the CBEZs are clearly demarcated small areas (usually no more than 10 km²) due to various reasons:
 - the mountainous terrain;
 - difficulty of land acquisition;
 - difficulty of management of bonded zones;
 - difficulty of getting approval from the ministries.
- Hence the importance of intensive development of CBEZs (efficient use of limited land resources) and the need of close cooperation with neighboring country (for more efficient allocation of industrial projects) .

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SEZs and CBEZs

❑ Should SEZs and CBEZs be part of the work of the Urban Task Forces?

- We agree to have more discussion on this issue.
- This work may involve or overlap with other GMS cooperation tasks, such as trade facilitation, industrialization, transport and customs clearance facilitation, etc. How to make this task fit in with other cooperation? Where will be the boundary between this and other cooperation mechanisms?
- It is suggested that the work of SEZs and CBEZs (if it becomes part of urban TF work) focus on the planning, infrastructure construction, management, and industrial cooperation, while strengthening cooperation and coordination with other GMS working groups and sub-forums.

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SEZs and CBEZs

❑ How are you allocating land for SEZs and CBEZs in your border areas?

- In Yunnan and Guangxi's case, the land is allocated for SEZs, CBEZs and urbanization according to the principle of "controlling the total amount, limiting the incremental and fully mobilizing the stock".
 - The scale of incremental land use for urbanization has been under strict control due to limited land resources.
 - In the meantime, a system of economical and intensive use of land has been set up. Use of hillside land and other nonproductive, waste land has been encouraged.
 - Reforms on rural land management system and land acquisition system have been carrying out for better protection of the farming land and farmers' rights.

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Priorities for Development Partner Assistance in the Urban Sector

□ Identify locations or activities in which Development Partner assistance would be most effective

- Need assistance in improving the level of scientific planning for urbanization and avoiding inefficient extensive urban development, esp. in the following areas:
 1. optimizing the spatial layout of city clusters and cities/towns;
 2. determining the scale, boundary, intensiveness and protected areas of cities/towns;
 3. positioning different function zones in proper places;
 4. scientifically planning the public transport, energy saving, ecological protection, waste disposal and sewage treatment systems;
 5. improving the overall quality of urbanization and uplifting image of cities/towns.
- Need support to the construction of transportation system, esp. construction of the comprehensive transportation hubs in cities (linking different modes of transport together) as well as inter-city transport links.
- Need support to the planning and construction of border towns, CBEZs and featured small cities/towns.

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What the Strategy Should do for China

□ How do you want the Strategy to assist your own development planning?

- We will fully participate in the GMS urbanization cooperation and further promote China's urbanization.
 - Take the opportunity of the implementation of the Strategy, promote international cooperation on urbanization with ADB, other international organizations and GMS countries, share experiences and lessons with each other, explore the possibility of establishing more cooperation mechanisms.
 - Expedite the construction of CBEZs and regional city clusters along GMS corridors, promote the level of internationalization of Chinese cities, and make Yunnan and Guangxi into gateways further opening up to Southeast Asia and South Asia.

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What the Strategy Should do for China?

- ❑ What will you do with the Strategy once it is finalised?
- ❑ Should the Strategy be dealing with issues not already covered?

- Once the Strategy is finalized, we will:
 - coordinate with relevant departments and organizations to establish a domestic coordination mechanism on GMS urbanization accordingly;
 - make the Strategy and our own urbanization plans fit in with each other, conduct joint research on problems (if any) arising from regional urbanization;
 - proactively promote the implementation of the Strategy, design specific implementation plans and policies as per the Strategy.
- The designing and implementation of the Strategy should be a process of continuous adjustment, improvement, deepening and refining. It is suggested various relevant issues be taken into consideration and be included in the Strategy in due time.

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Recommended Next Steps for the Strategy

- ❑ What is the Way Forward for the Strategy ?
- ❑ Any suggestions for more regular coordination and cooperation between countries ?

- In general, we agree with the proposed strategy pillars, elements and components.
- More suggestions for consideration:
 - Further raise the awareness of the importance of urbanization and promote its status in overall GMS cooperation framework;
 - Optimize allocation of resources in light of GMS regional integration, promote division of labor based on comparative advantages, promote coordinated development of big, medium-sized and small cities, optimize regional distribution of industries and form complementary industrial chains, so as to bring about an overall mutually beneficial and healthy environment for urbanization cooperation;
 - Promote participation of local governments through sister-city relationship and association of mayors; strengthen people-to-people communication and interaction;

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Recommended Next Steps for the Strategy

- On top of the 3 strategic pillars, further take into consideration of the development of medium-sized and small cities/towns (for promoting inclusive growth and regionally balanced development) by combining the development of tourism and amenity, environment protection, heritage protection and development of the cultural industry, production of characteristic products (F.I. OTOP of Thailand) into urbanization strategy;
- Take a step-by-step approach in the implementation of the Strategy, and proactively carry out various pilot projects. In selecting pilot projects, prioritize the cities/towns along the corridors with competitiveness and development potentials, and also the CBEZs, green and low-carbon cities, intelligent cities, tourism cities and industrial parks (in sync with PPP);
- Emphatically develop multi-modal transportation system and raise regional connectivity to a new level;
- Strengthen bilateral and regional coordination and harmonization of relevant policies, institutions, technical standards, etc. for urbanization;

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Recommended Next Steps for the Strategy

- Add one more component in capacity building to enhance interaction and knowledge sharing with countries and areas outside GMS and ASEAN such as E.U.;
- Consider more public participation. Consult public opinions on relevant projects and measures, and give support to more public services and community-based projects in the Strategy;
- Strengthen supervision and evaluation. Set up a supervision and evaluation system and carry out supervision and evaluation programs to check the effectiveness and efficiency of the Strategy in due time.

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Thank you!

P.R.China Task Force

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Country Presentation

Lao PDR

Mr. Noupheuak VIRABOUTH

Deputy Director General, Department of Housing and Urban Planning,
Ministry of Public Works and Transport

Urgent Issues that can be Addressed

- **No systematic linkage between districts within a province or a region in most of urban development;**
- **Limited urban and environmental infrastructure and service provision; the problems can be attributed to:**
 - ✓ **insufficient urban management,**
 - ✓ **little strategic spatial planning,**
 - ✓ **poor connectivity between urban planning and environmental management, and**
 - ✓ **insufficient investment in infrastructure and community services.**

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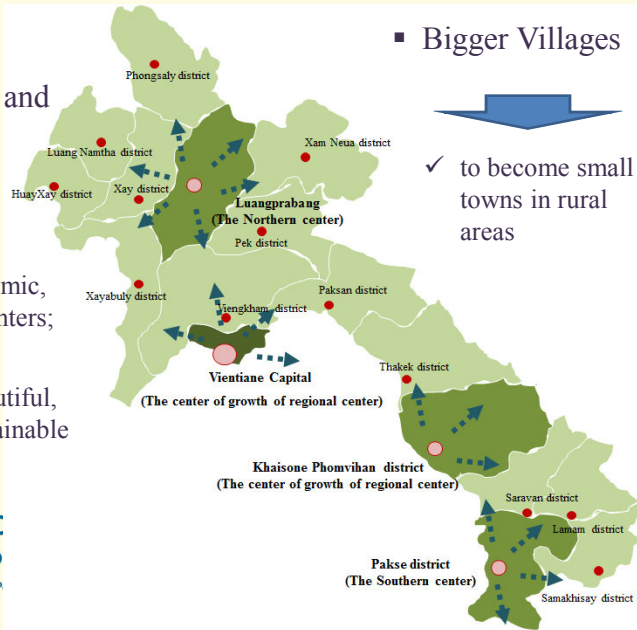
Urban Centers that Urgently Need Urban Plans (1/4)

- Vientiane Capital,
- Provincial Towns, and
- District Towns,



- ✓ to become; political, administration, economic, social and cultural centers; and
- ✓ to become clean, beautiful, environmentally sustainable and liveable towns.

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- Bigger Villages



- ✓ to become small towns in rural areas

Urban Centers that Urgently Need Urban Plans (2/4)



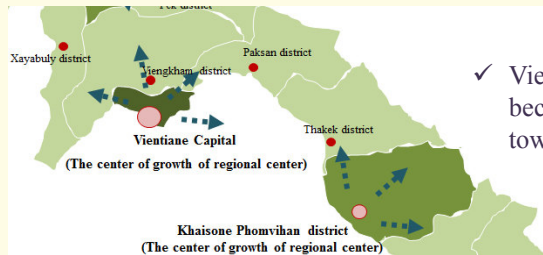
Luang Prabang becoming a Northern Regional Centre

- ✓ Xay and Pek towns to become industrial Centres and to be linkage points
- ✓ Xam Neua, Phongsaly, Luang Namtha and Houaysay towns to become the centres for dissemination of data, information, consumption of local products, contributing to the limitation of the rural people migration, balancing the development and making linkage to neighbouring countries;

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Urban Centers that Urgently Need Urban Plans (3/4)

Vientiane Capital and Kaysone Phomvihane Town becoming Central Regional Centres



✓ Viengkham, Paksane, Thakhek to become green and modernized towns

✓ Outhoumphone, Atsaphangthong, Tha Phalanexay, Phinh and Xepone to become hubs linking to the Greater Mekong Subregion

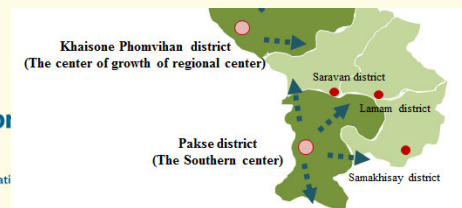
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Urban Centers that Urgently Need Urban Plans (4/4)

Pakse Town to become the Economic, Technic and Scientific Center for the Lao Southern Region

- ✓ Saravane, Samakhixay, Xaysettha, Lamam to become the economic towns linking to the Lao Central and Northern Regions, as well as neighboring countries
- ✓ Xaysettha, Samakhixay, Khong Xedone, Thateng, Paksong and Pathoumphone towns linking to the goods production zones and domestic markets development centres



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Urban Centers that Urgently Need Infrastructure Improvements or Development

- ✓ Phin, Kaysone Phomvihane, Dansavanh (GMS I on going)
- ✓ Luang Namtha and Houaysai (GMS II PPTA on going)
- ✓ Paksane, Khamkeuth, Laksao, Viengthong, Thakhek, Mahaxay, Boualapha, (GMS IV Planned)
- ✓ Luang Prabang and Xam Neua (Northeastern Corridor)
- ✓ Outhoumphone, Atsaphangthong, Thaphalanxay, Xepone (East-West Economic Corridor)

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Border Areas Urgently Needing Plans

- Boten Lao PDR – Mohan PRC Economic Cooperation Zone:
 - Boten SEZ and Mohan have their development plans. But in light of the agreement to develop into the Economic Cooperation Zone, the two sides are now preparing a Master Plan. Technical assistance is needed to support the finalization of the master plan.
- Kaysone Phomvihane (Border with Moukdahane of Thailand)
- Dansavanh (Border with Laobao of Viet Nam)

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Special Economic Zones (SEZs) 2/1

- SEZs include development of new urban centres and small towns as well as promoting investment activities in those areas. Therefore, to promote overall coherence, SEZ could be part of the work of the Urban Task Forces (note: SEZs is multi-sectoral issues within specific geographic areas)



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Special Economic Zones (SEZs) 2/2

- The selection of SEZs is guided by the objectives of SEZ development which is to contribute to poverty reduction, economic development and regional integration, as specified in the National Socio-Economic Development Plan and the Development Strategy for SEZ in the Lao PDR 2011- 2020.
- Boten SEZ is being developed into the economic cooperation zone with Mohan PRC due to:
 - ✓ Its strategic location as the gateway from ASEAN to China
 - ✓ Common intentions of the two Governments, local authorities and the peoples to develop this border area

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Priorities for Development Partner Assistance in the Urban Sector

- Improve Urban Planning and Management;
- Urban and Environmental infrastructure development and Improvement;
 - ✓ Solid Waste management;
 - ✓ Waste water management;
 - ✓ Flood control;
 - ✓ Drainage system improvement;
 - ✓ River bank protection;
 - ✓ Urban road improvement;
 - ✓ Establishment and Improvement of green area;
 - ✓ Etc.,
- Water Supply and Sanitation development.

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What the (Strategy)? Should do for Lao PDR

- **Planning and Development**
 - ✓ Luang Namtha and Houaysai (GMS II PPTA on going)
 - ✓ Paksan, Khamkeuth, Laksao, Viengthong, Thakhek, Mahaxay, Boualapha, (GMS IV Planned)
- **Planning**
 - ✓ Luang Prabang and Xam Neua (Northeastern Corridor)
 - ✓ Outhoumphone, Atsaphangthong, Thaphalanxay, Sepone (East-West Economic Corridor)
 - ✓ Kaysone Phomvihane, Dansavanh and Laobao (Border towns)

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What the **(Strategy)?** Should do for Lao PDR

- Capacity Development in Urban planning and Management
- Contribute to the effective implementation of the National Strategies of Urban Development and Special Economic Zones
- Assist the Lao PDR in the sustained realization of the GMS Economic Corridors to further effective connectivity with other GMS Member Countries and integration with the ASEAN Community.

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Recommended Next Steps for the **(Strategy)?**

- ADB team consultation with key national GMS Agencies on the revision of the proposed GMS Urban Development Strategy (Preparation of guidelines for Border Area Planning, need assessment with local People)
- Appropriate revision and finalisation of the proposed GMS Urban Development Strategy to be in line with the GMS Strategic Framework and the outcome of ECF6 for further approval
- Publication, translation and dissemination of the concerned **(Strategy?)**
- Upgrading of GMS Urban Task force to a working group on Urban Development, Economic Bordering Towns and Special Economic Zones

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Thank-you

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The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Urban Task Force

The Urban Development Priorities for Myanmar

- The urgent issues that Myanmar plans to address through urban development strategies, urban planning, and targeted urban investments are:
 - **Reduction of the country poverty incidence;**
 - **Upgrading and developing socio-economic life of the people;**
 - **Narrowing down the development gap between urban and rural areas;**
 - **Balanced and inclusive development throughout the nation**

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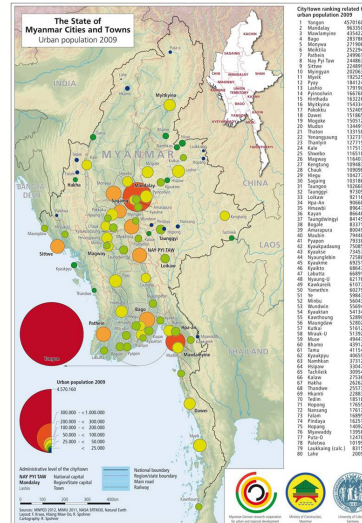
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Urban Centers Urgently Needing Development Plans

Prioritization for Urban Development Planning in Myanmar

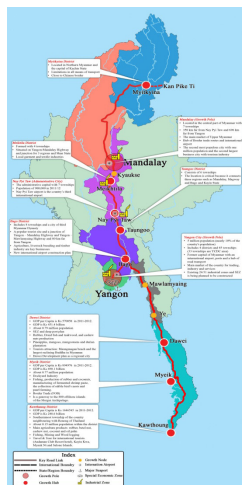
1. Importance for the National Unity
2. Importance for Regional Socio-Economic Development
3. Economy, Border Trade, Special Economic Zone Development Potential
4. Historical and Cultural Importance
5. Tourism Development Potential

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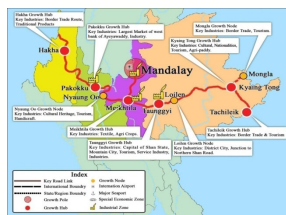


56 Urban Centers
 81 Urban Centers

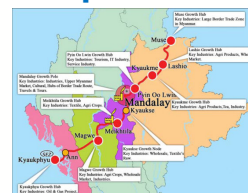
Urban Centers Urgently Needing Development Plans



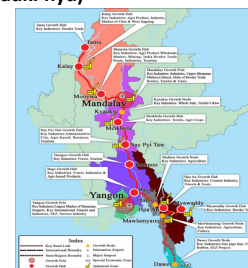
(1) North South Economic Corridor (Kawthaung, Myeik, Dawei, Mawlamyine, Thaton, Yangon, Mandalay, Myitkyina, Kanpaitee)



(2) East West Economic Corridor (Tachileik, Kyaukse, Yangon, Mawlaik, Mandalay, Nyang U, Pakokku, Hahaone)



(3) Northeast-southwest corridor (Muse, Lashio, Pyin Oolwin, Magway, Kyaukse)



(4) Southeast-northwest corridor (Myawaddy, Mawlamyiaing, Monywa, Kalay, Tamu)

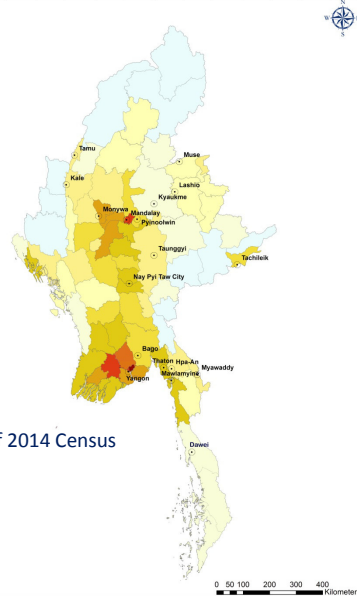
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Urban Centers Urgently Needing Development Plans

Population Size of Selected Urban Centers

Urban Center	Population
Yangon	5,209,541
Mandalay	1,225,133
Bago	491,130
Hpa-an	421,415
Monywa	371,963
Mawlamyine	288,120
Lashio	173,811
Dawei	125,239
Myawaddy	113,009
Muse	74,144

Population Density by Districts



Based on Provisional Results of 2014 Census

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Urban Centers Urgently Needing Infrastructure/Improvements

- Which urban centers are most acutely in need of infrastructure to address poor environmental conditions?
- Most of the Urban Centers are in need of infrastructure to address poor environmental conditions.
- Prioritization needs to be done according to the vulnerability.

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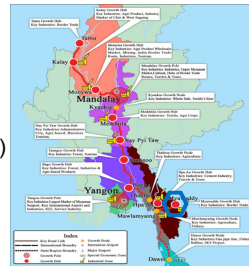
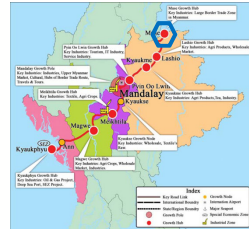
Border Areas Urgently Needing Plans

- Which are the priority border points needing spatial plans?

Important GMS Border Crossings in Myanmar

- NORTHERN CORRIDOR**
Muse – Ruli
Trade, Tourism
- EAST – WEST CORRIDOR**
Myawaddy – Mae Sot
Trade (Possibility of Tourism)

Economic Corridors of Myanmar



GMS Economic Corridors



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Border Areas Urgently Needing Plans

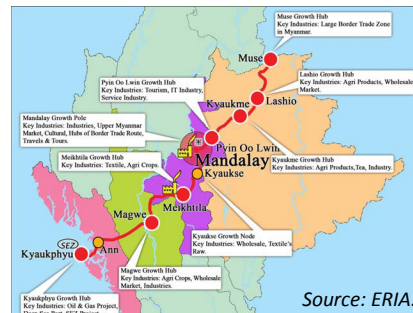
- Which are the priority border points needing spatial plans?

Muse, Myanmar

- Northeast-southwest Myanmar Economic Corridor**

This corridor provides a sea route opportunity to landlocked Yunnan province in China through crossing Myanmar.

- GMS Northern Economic Corridor**



Source: ERIA.



Source: ADB

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Border Areas Urgently Needing Plans

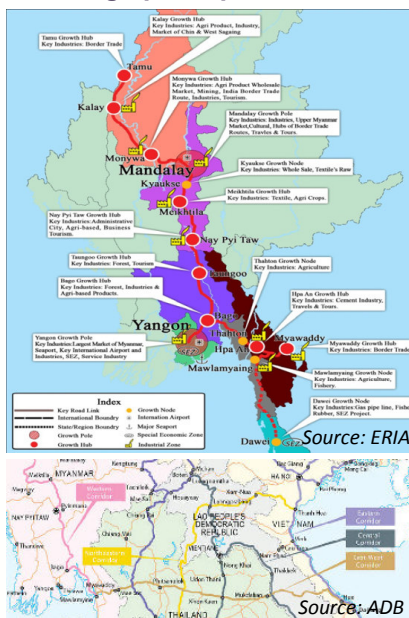
- Which are the priority border points needing spatial plans?

Myawaddy, Myanmar

- Southeast-Northwest Myanmar Economic Corridor**

A tripartite route that links Thailand and India through Myanmar, having a branch from the extension of GMS East-West Economic Corridor and connection to Southern Corridor.

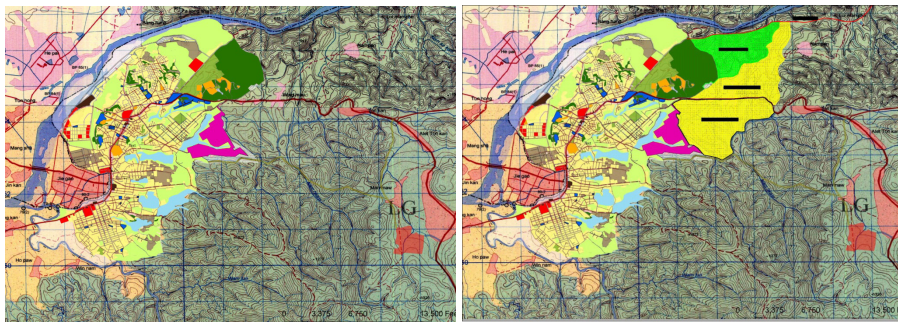
- GMS East-West Economic Corridor**



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Border Areas Urgently Needing Plans

- What size of area would be appropriate for an area plan covering both sides of the border?



Muse, Myanmar

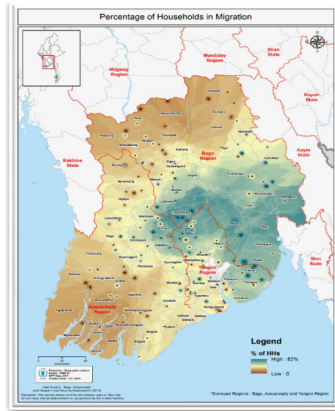
Existing Area	=	18.85 sq. km.
Extension	=	5.7 sq. km.
Total	=	24.55 sq. km.

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SEZs and CBEZs

- Should SEZs and CBEZs be part of the work of the Urban Task Forces?

Rural-Urban Migration

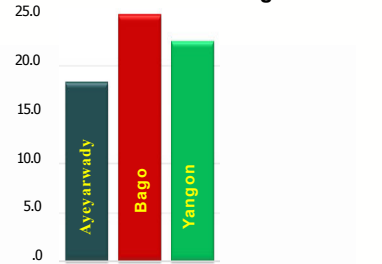


Source: LIFT survey 2013

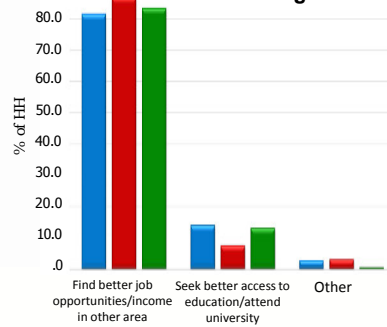
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% of Households with Members who have Migrated

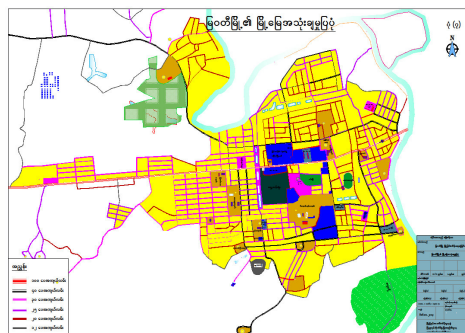


Reasons for Migration



SEZs and CBEZs

- How are you allocating land for SEZs and CBEZs in your border areas?



1. By identifying Special Development Projects from the Union Level

2. By drawing development plans with consultation of stakeholders at township level and submitting for approval to the Region or State Assembly

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Priorities for Development Partner Assistance in the Urban Sector

- Identify locations or activities in which Development Partner assistance would be most effective
- Capacity Building;
- In realizing national development plans in line with the strategy.

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What the Strategy Should do for Myanmar

- How do you want the Strategy to assist your own development planning?
- In realizing national development plans in line with the strategy.
- What will you do with the Strategy once it is finalised?
- Incorporate into the national urban development plans and translate into action plans.
- Should the Strategy be dealing with issues not already covered?
- Will be helpful to incorporate the issues of migration, job creation and housing provision.

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Recommended Next Steps for the Strategy

- What is the Way Forward for the Strategy?
- To be adopted and transformed into action plans by individual countries with assistance of the development partners.
- Any suggestions for more regular coordination and cooperation between countries?
- Updates on action plans, strengths and weaknesses in the course of implementation through regular coordination and cooperation to improve the strategy will be helpful.

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Thank-you

Myanmar Urban Task Force

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Thailand

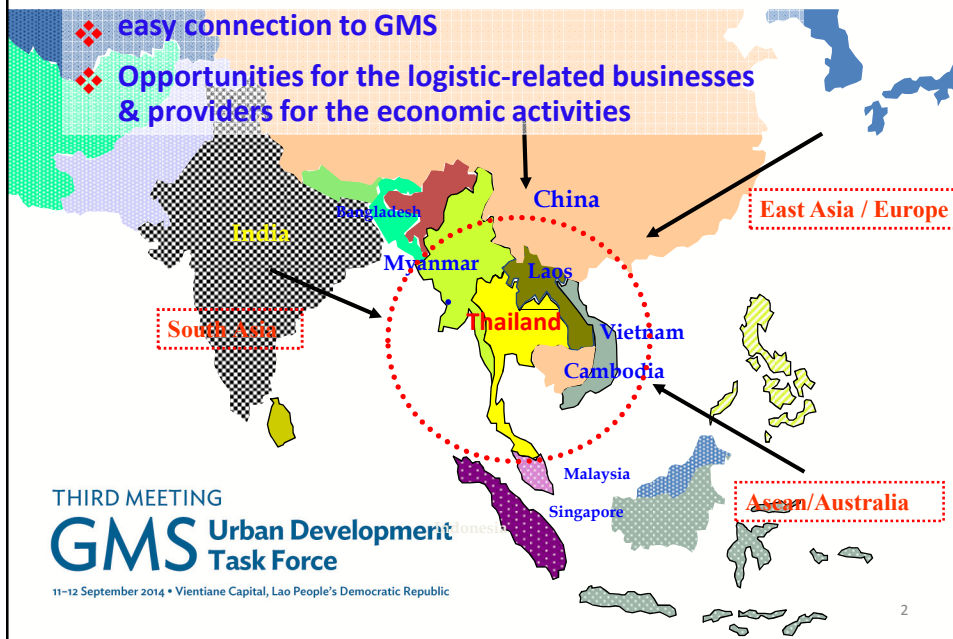
Sansanee Srisukri

Architech/Planner

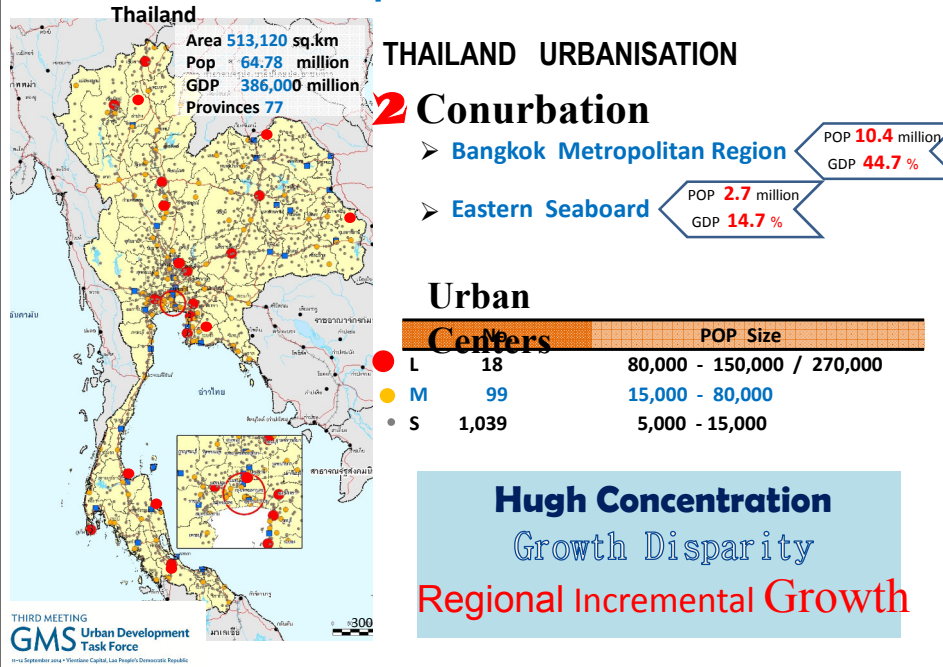
Senior Planner : Department Of Public Works and Town & Country Planning

Thailand : Strategic location

- ❖ easy connection to GMS
- ❖ Opportunities for the logistic-related businesses & providers for the economic activities



The Urban Development Priorities for Thailand



The Urban Development Priorities for Thailand

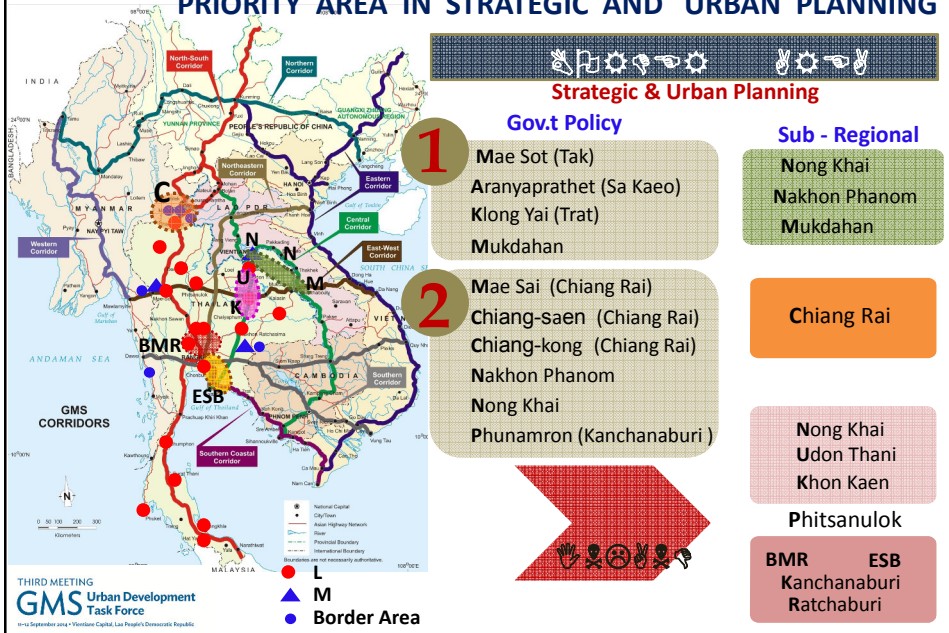
Emphasis on Border Town & Border Area Development

Existing urban nodes

- ❖ **Driving economic growth with neighbouring countries**
 - Attract more investment
 - Enhance regional production base and ...
 - Competitiveness
- ❖ **Opportunity to reduce regional disparities**

Urban Centers Urgently Needing Development Plans

PRIORITY AREA IN STRATEGIC AND URBAN PLANNING



Urban Centers Urgently Needing Development Plans

“Hotspots” in need of strategic & urban planning

ESB Industrial devt. *hand in hand with* Environmental sustainability

Most rapidly growing urban centres

3 UCs Phitsanulok	on EVEC Khon Kaen	Mukdahan
3 UCs Chiang Rai	on NSEC Udon Thani	Nakhon Ratchasima
4 UCs Nakhon Phanom	at border crossing Mae Sot	Aranyaprathet
		Nong Khai

Urban Centers Urgently Needing Development Plans



Greatest planning challenges

Chiang Rai : 3 UCs connect with Myanmar & Lao PDR

Mae Sot : UC connect with Myanmar growing trading value

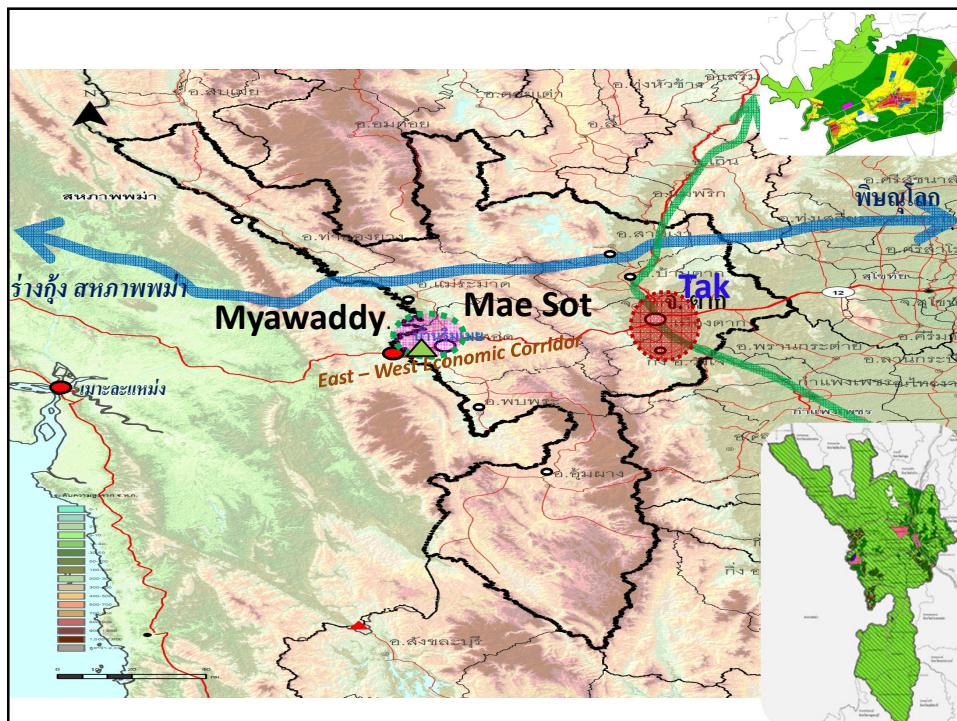
Environmental Risks : **Floods , Earthquakes , Erosion**

Cultural Risks : **Historical Towns
Mekong/River Settlements**

Nature Rich : **Forest , Arable land
prone to loss**

Need

*Well integrated planning—well established measu
well managed actions*



Urban Centers Urgently Needing Infrastructure/Improvements

Much more emphasis on sustainable devt. in all Ucs

Must

Improve living conditions

Impose & pursue environmental standard

Particularly :

Waste management

Pollution management

Water resources

Water quality

Energy saving

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Border Areas Urgently Needing Plans

5 SEZ development : Mae Sot Aranyaprathet Mukdaharn
Trat Sadao/Padangbesar

Land Boundary



: Approx 2,000 acre

: As of "Promotion Zone" defined

: Infrastructure provision by state

: Business investment through private entrepreneurs /developers

: Devt. prohibited in Forest zones

: Other legal controls also put in uses

Land use, bldg., business permission, etc.

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SEZs and CBEZs

- ❖ **Different approach for different country**
Social, economic, political, legal environment
- ❖ **Need co-operation /bilateral agreement between neighbouring countries**

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Priorities for Development Partner Assistance in the Urban Sector

Thailand's prepared for cross border area devt.

Soft & hard infrastructure, social services & amenities, trade facilitating services

Expectation

Smooth linkage : good physical condition, timely use possible expansion

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What the Strategy Should do for Thailand



How the strategy assist devt. planning ?

Provide ground for GMS Urban Development Framework

- ❖ Mutual co-operation in Area Development Planning
- ❖ Information and knowledge sharing
- ❖ Opportunities for monitor and assessment



Once the strategy is finalised , what will we do ?

- ❖ Guarantee the political commitment through GMS ministers endorsement
- ❖ Provide room for adjustment in response to incoming dynamic global issues

Recommended Next Steps for the Strategy



The Way Forward

Structure Plan/Regional Plan preparation for
Border Points of 2 neighbouring countries

Building platform for co-development in
Border Areas

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Thank you

Thailand Task Force



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Basic Information

2005-2012

BMR

Province	Pop Growth rate	GDP Growth rate
BMR		
Bangkok	-0.15	5.5
Samut Prakan	1.7	7.7
Nonthaburi	2.3	6.1
Pathum Thani	3.1	5.0
Nakhon Pathom	1.1	6.9
Samut Sakhon	1.7	5.3

ESB

Province	Pop Growth rate	GDP Growth rate
ESB		
Chon Buri	1.4	6.6
Rayong	0.6	8.9
Chachoengsao	0.7	11.4

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Basic Information

2005-2012

Province	Pop Growth rate	GDP Growth rate
<u>EWEC</u>		
Khon Kaen	0.2	11.3
Phitsanulok	0.2	10.1
Mukdahan	0.4	9.7
Tak	0.1	6.1
<u>N-S NSEC</u>		
Nakhon Ratchasima	0.4	8.6
Udon Thani	0.3	10.8
Chiang Rai	-0.3	8.4
Sa Kaeo	0.3	7.9
Nong Khai	0.5	5.1
Nakhon Phanom	0.3	11.76
<u>BORDER AREA</u>		
Trat	0.24	7.98
Kanchanaburi	0.21	7.48

Government support

Investment Incentives

- BOI grant investment incentives to three supported investment zones
- Tax privilege and non tax privilege provision

Migrant worker

- Establish migrant worker monitoring system for their arrival and departure of the SEZ

One stop service system

- Establish local one stop service center for investment, connected to BOI service center via internet or other technological content
- Establish One stop service center for Labor/ Public health and immigration

Infrastructure

- Basic infrastructure on customs and transit
- Logistics basic infrastructure
- Reservoir and water delivery system
- Electric power and other facilities

Targeted Area

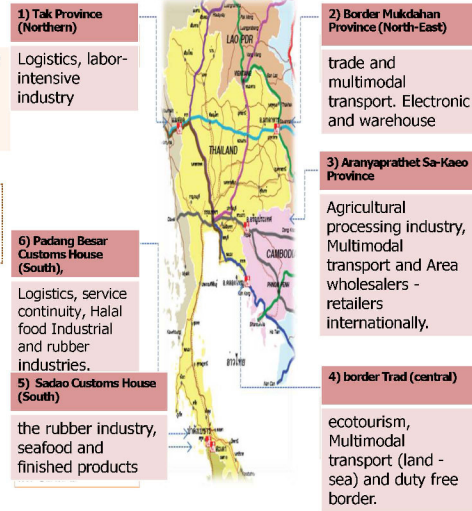
Results of the National Committee on Special Economic Zone Policy Development: The 1st Meeting in 2014.

Approval of potential areas suitable for the establishment of special economic zone development in the 1st phase including 5 border areas.

(1) Mae Sot, Tak Province (2) Aranyaprathet, Sa-Kaeo Province (3) Trat border area (4) Border area Mukdahan Province (5) Sadao, Songkhla Province (Sadao and Padang Besar border checkpoint).

Criteria for Consideration

- **Geographical advantage** (for transportation, border crossing, access to resources and markets).
- **Potential area and ready for development.** (Outstanding production base, possibility to expand, the availability of infrastructure / financial resource / labor force, absent on severe disasters and no security threat).
- **Require urgent development.** (Due to international agreements or to solve the constraint).
- **Support from public and stakeholders.**

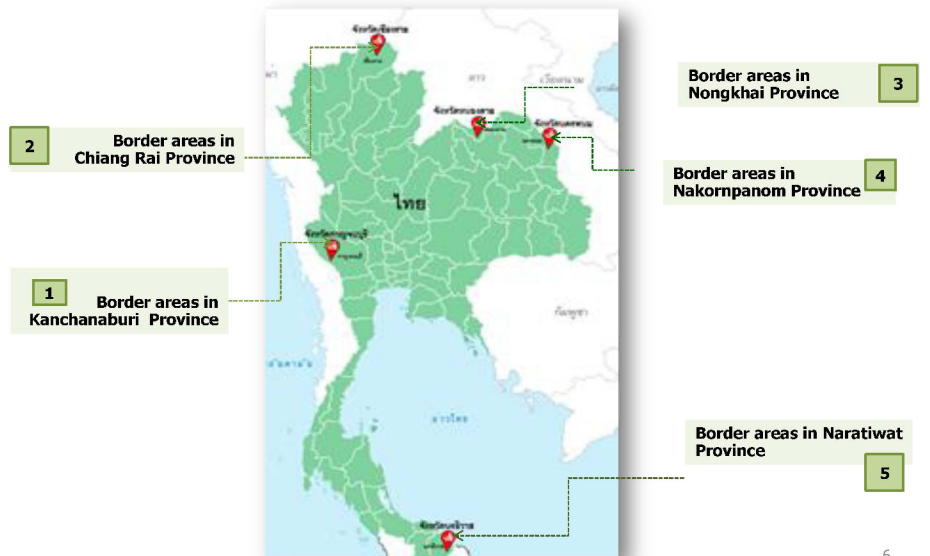


Focus on achieving the economic and social development and country's security, stimulating economic growth at the border areas, creating well-being for the people, solving illegal workforce, preventing agricultural goods smuggling and reducing congestion at border checkpoints.

Potential areas to establish SEZ in next stage

Potential areas to establish as SEZ in next stage

Considering based on **readiness** of Individual Area



Flagship Initiatives:

Cross-border Transport Agreement

Single Stop Inspection

One Stop Service

For CBTA in Thailand

**First step : Mukdahan,
Aranyaprathet , Mae Sai, Mae Sot**

**Second Step : Nong Khai, Chiang
Kong, Chong Mek and Trat**

**Thailand can Provide Assistance
in Customs & Cross Broder
Management to CLMV**

**The Negotiation of All Annexes & Protocols
has been finalized and Signed by March 2007,
waiting for the ratification from countries.
After ratification, full implementation of CBTA
has scheduled in 2008**





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VIETNAM

Hoang Viet Khang
Tran Quoc Thai
Luong thi Hong Hanh

The Urban Development Priorities for Vietnam

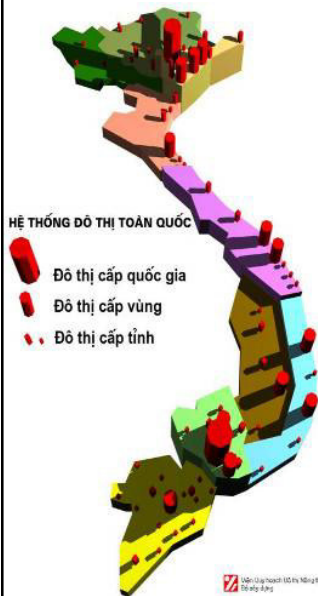
- **Vietnam Urban Development Strategy:**
 - Up to 2015: focal economic regions, coastal economic zones, cross – border zones, play as national economic growth poles
 - From 2015 to 2025: urbanised regions, reducing the locally dispersed development.
 - From 2026 to 2050: cities networking
- **Activities:**
 - Improving quality of life is a focal point in current urban development
 - Promoting sustainable urban growth engines and competitive capacity
 - Develop synchronic and modern urban infrastructure
 - Developing urban mass rapid transit system in metropolitan regions
 - Improving affordability and efficiency of infrastructure investment.
 - Strengthening capacity for urban development planning, prioritization and programming

Urban Centers Urgently Needing Development Plans



- **Hotspots' of need in strategic and urban planning:** Green growth, urban environment protection, urban GHG emission reduction, conservative urban land use for protection of rain forest to minimize down stream flooding, climate change resilient and adaptation
- **Urban centers are growing the most rapidly** located in the northern, southern and central focal economic regions: Hanoi, Hai Phong, Ha Long, Da Nang, Ho Chi Minh, Bien Hoa, Vung Tau, Thu Dau Mot,
- **Urban centers present the greatest planning challenges** located in highland and mountainous regions, coastal region and Mekong River Delta region having potential tourism but frequently facing climate changes

Urban Centers Urgently Needing Infrastructure/Improvements



- The northern mountainous urban centers located in the two corridors (Hanoi – Lao Cai) and (Hanoi – Lang Son) connect to inland cross border post with China.
- The urban centers located in Red river delta accessible to GMS northern corridor and sea ports.
- Coastal economic zones and tourism sites located along the national backbone NH1 of Vietnam or GMS eastern corridor
- Urban centers located along GMS southern corridor served by NH51 which connects to Vung Tau port and NH22 which connects HCMC to Cambodia.
- Urban centers in the Mekong River Delta located in the GMS southern coastal corridor connect to Cambodia

Border Areas Urgently Needing Plans

- **The priority border points needing spatial plans:**
 - 15 coastal economic zones and 23 CBEZs already have master plans.
 - 3 coastal economic zones and 03 CBEZs need master plans .
 - The issues of improving living standard and housing for the laborers, environment, securities and externalities of CBEZs (such as cross-border migration, women and children trafficking) should be dealt in CBEZs planning.
- **Size of area appropriate for an area plan:**
 - SEZs and CBEZs should be planned synchronously for industrial – urban and services activities inside,
 - Size of area is equivalent to that of small city with land reserved for future development.
 - In Vietnam experience, size of SEZs and CBEZs should be the same as cities class IV and III with minimum population of 90,000 -150,000 inhabitants.
 - On average, one CBEZ occupied at least 30,000 ha of land, minimum size of plan area is more than 10,000ha.

SEZs and CBEZs

- SEZs and CBEZs are concentrated industrial, trade and service activities which are typical factors forming urban centers.
- SEZs and CBEZs are prioritized by the government in local and national socio-economic development strategies.
- SEZs and CBEZs are normally established in good locations which connect to the national transport backbone or conveniently access to labor market or resources.
- **As SEZs and CBEZs play as important roles in urban development and local/national socio-economic development, SEZs and CBEZs should be part of the Urban TF in the future**
 - According to the Law on land, The land use term for production and business in an SEZs and CBEZs must not exceed 70 years.
 - Provincial People's Committees allocates land to the management boards of economic zones for construction of the economic zones in accordance with the approved land use plan
 - The management board of an economic zone shall carry out the compensation and ground clearance for the recovered land before re-allocating or leasing the land.

SEZs and CBEZs

- 15 coastal economic zones are established with the covered area of 697,800 ha of water surface and land.
- Developed areas of is 21,000ha, accounted for 41% of land area for manufacturing and services in coastal economic zones.
- 26 CBEZs were established in 21 land-border provinces with the covered land area of 720,000 ha.
- According to master plan, by the year 2020 there will be 18 coastal economic zones and 26 CBEZs located through out the country.
- There will be no expansion and the establishment of new zones in the years to come so that investment will be directed to existing SEZs and CBEZs

Priorities for Development Partner Assistance in the Urban Sector

- Revise urban master plans targeting sustainable urban development
- Set up urban data base
- Attract investors in existing SEZs and CBEZs
- Technical Assistance for Vietnam's Urban Development Strategy (NUDS) to implement the National Urban System Planning in integration with new challenges and socio-economic strategies.
- Support urban infrastructure development in northern mountainous region, central highland region, cities located in the GMS eastern and south corridors for climate changed adaptation.
- Set up PPP mechanism in urban infrastructure development
- Develop urban mass rapid transit system in Hanoi and HCM
- Develop inner-regional and inter-regional waterway routes for urban areas in Mekong river delta and regions with advantageous situation of sea, river, canals, ditches.
- Reduce non revenue water in urban centers

What the Strategy Should do for Vietnam

- GMS Strategy can be adopted in Vietnam if it targets the country's benefit from cooperation and incorporates country's priorities
- The strategy should provide investment plan which identifies financial resources and timeline for implementation so that country can combine with national investment plan in allocating counter part funds and mobilize other resources for implementation
- The strategy should identify areas, activities and responsibilities for GMS countries cooperation, especially in dealing with cross-border issues.
- The strategy should identify potential issues and externalities from cross-border cooperation so that the country can be aware of risks in taking commitment
- ***In urban planning: support needed for criteria and procedure of reviewing approved regional, provincial and urban center spatial plan to incorporate new challenges of green growth and climate change.***
- ***In strengthening capacity: decision making capacity in approval of development strategy, plans and implementation prioritization.***
- ***Knowledge sharing: integration of Vietnam Urban Forum to GMS network.***
- ***Guiding framework for development of Vietnam's Urban Development Strategy***
- The strategy will be used as guidelines for the country in cross-border cooperation; and reference for setting up urban plans and investment plans
- Once the strategy is finalised, it should be revised after 3 or 5 years to update and deal with the issues not already covered but relevant to the target of strategy

Recommended Next Steps for the Strategy

- **The Way Forward for the Strategy:**
 1. Agreeing upon the structure, goals, objectives, strategic areas, implementation strategic actions, monitoring and assessment framework for the strategy.
 2. Seeking a formal member country's opinions on the strategy content.
 3. Setting up country's action plan for implementation of GMS urban development strategy
 4. Setting up GMS urban data base.
 5. Preparing Cross- border cooperation program and agreement between GMS countries.
 6. Identifying country's focal agency responsible for supervising the strategy implementation
 7. Urban task force member are not authorized for decision making on the issues of a country related to GMS urban development strategy. It should be consider the operation framework of urban task force in the future.

Thank-you

Vietnam Urban Task Force

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CAM: GMS Southern Economic Corridor Towns Development Project

Rationale and Scope

- Previous public investments have increased connectivity between Cambodia and Viet Nam in the SEC
- The project will finance public infrastructure investments to strengthen the economic competitiveness and investment attractiveness of selected corridor towns

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CAM: GMS Southern Economic Corridor Towns Development Project



Poipet

Battambang

Bavet

Neak Loeung

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CAM: GMS Southern Economic Corridor Towns Development Project

Cost of ADB Financing

- Loan and grants approved on 10 December 2012
- ADB financing amounts: \$37.0 million (ADF loan), \$5.0 million (PPCR loan), \$4.4 million (PPCR grant) and \$1.5 million (UFPF grant)

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CAM: GMS Southern Economic Corridor Towns Development Project

Project Outputs

- Urban roads in Bavet
- Flood control infrastructure in Battambang and Neak Loeng
- Sewerage and wastewater treatment in Battambang, Bavet and Poipet
- Solid waste management in Battambang, Bavet and Poipet
- Capacity building on infrastructure management for the three towns

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CAM: GMS Southern Economic Corridor Towns Development Project

Project Status

- Project implementation support and capacity development consultants mobilized on 18 August 2014
- Tripartite meeting on 8 September 2014
- Detailed engineering design (DED) consultant recruitment on-going
- Construction activities expected by Q4 of 2015

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LAO: GMS East-West Economic Corridor Towns Development Project

Rationale and Scope

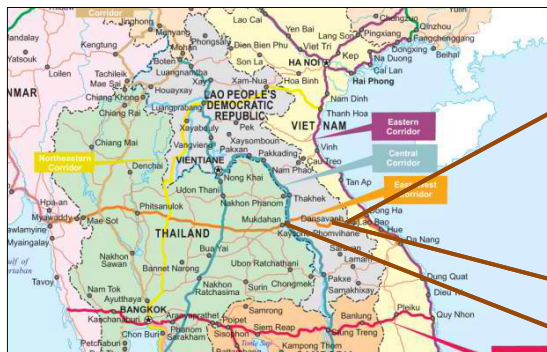
- Project will address the need to increase physical connectivity along the EWEC in Lao PDR
- The project will involve investments on new urban infrastructure that will help strengthen the competitive advantage of key towns in Lao PDR along the EWEC including urban-rural product chains (towns-to-hinterlands)

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LAO: GMS East-West Economic Corridor Towns Development Project



Dansavan

Phine

Kaysone Phomvihane

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LAO: GMS East-West Economic Corridor Towns Development Project

Cost of ADB Financing

- Loan and grants approved on 6 November 2012
- ADB financing amounts: \$26.6 million (ADF loan) , \$14.23 million (ADF grant), and \$0.638 million (UFPF grant)

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LAO: GMS East-West Economic Corridor Towns Development Project

Project Outputs

- Urban roads in Kaysone Phomvihane, Phine and Dansavanh
- River embankment development in Kaysone Phomvihane
- Sewerage and wastewater treatment in Kaysone Phomvihane
- Solid waste management in Kaysone Phomvihane
- Capacity building on infrastructure management for the three towns

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LAO: GMS East-West Economic Corridor Towns Development Project

Project Status

- Project management and capacity development consultants mobilized on 04 June 2014
- Draft inception report submitted on 11 July 2014
- Consultants currently preparing recommendations for detailed engineering design
- First construction activities expected by November 2015

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VIE: GMS Corridor Towns Development Project

Rationale and Scope

- Viet Nam has key links to international air and sea ports connected to the EWEC and SEC
- The project will fund infrastructure investments in key border towns along the EWEC and SEC to strengthen their economic and investment attractiveness given their locational advantage

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VIE: GMS Corridor Towns Development Project

Rationale and Scope

Dong Ha

Lao Bao

Moc Bai



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VIE: GMS Corridor Towns Development Project

Cost of ADB Financing

- Loan and grants approved on 12 December 2012
- ADB financing amounts: \$130.0 million (ADF loan) and \$1.0 million (UFPF grant)

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VIE: GMS Corridor Towns Development Project

Project Outputs

- Urban roads in Dong Ha, Lao Bao and Moc Bai
- River embankment development in Dong Ha
- Water supply and wastewater treatment in Moc Bai
- Solid waste management in Dong Ha, Lao Bao and Moc Bai
- Capacity building on infrastructure management for the three towns

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VIE: GMS Corridor Towns Development Project

Project Status

- On-going recruitment of project management and capacity development consultant
- Cost replacement survey to be conducted
- Resettlement plan for updating

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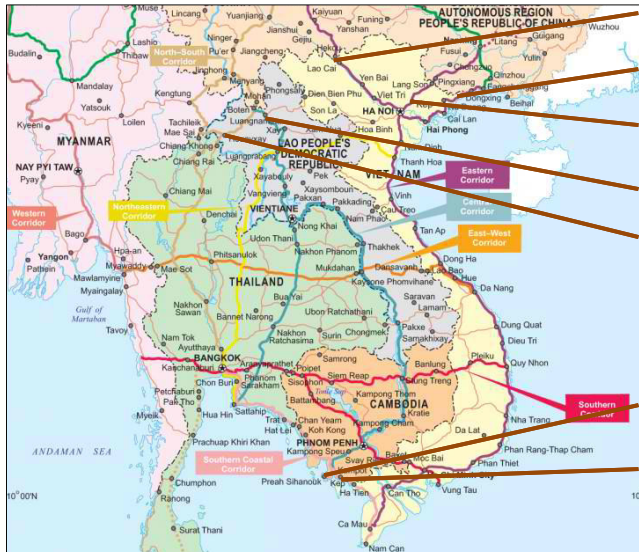
Second GMS Corridor Towns Development Project

Rationale and Scope

- Follow-on to the First Corridor Towns Development project in Cambodia, Lao PDR and Viet Nam
- Aims to transform the GMS transport corridors into full-fledge economic corridors through infrastructure investments that will support trade and tourism activities in seven GMS towns

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Second GMS Corridor Towns Development Project



- Sa Pa
- Mong Cai
- Bac Giang
- Luang Namtha
- Houayxay
- Sihanoukville
- Kampot

Second GMS Corridor Towns Development Project

Project Outputs

- Proposals for National Urban Development Strategies per country
- Strategic Local Economic Development Plans (SLEDP) per project town
- Urban infrastructure investments
- Institutional capacity building for urban infrastructure management

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Second GMS Corridor Towns Development Project

Project Cost (ADB Financing)

- Total cost is \$ 192 million
- For Cambodia = \$52 million
- For Lao PDR = \$ 40 million
- For Viet Nam = \$100 million

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Second GMS Corridor Towns Development Project

Current Status

- PPTA inception phase
- Inception workshops held in Bac Giang, Luang Namtha, and Sihanoukville
- Draft inception report submitted to ADB

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Second GMS Corridor Towns Development Project

Next Activities

- PPTA planning phase
- Preparation of SLEDPs
- Project prioritization and preparation of feasibility studies

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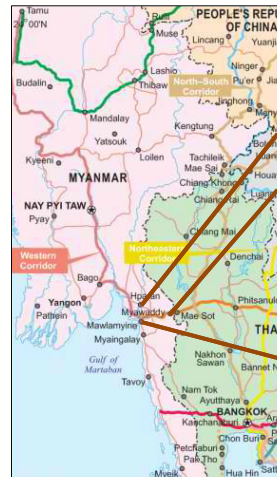
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Third GMS Corridor Towns Development Project - Myanmar

Rationale and Scope

- The project will help increase economic activities along the GMS through improved access to sustainable urban services in three cities along the EWEC in Myanmar



Hpa-An

Myawaddy

Mawlamyine

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Third GMS Corridor Towns Development Project - Myanmar

Project Outputs and Cost of ADB Financing

- Endorsement and implementation of strategic local economic development plans
- Improvement of priority urban infrastructure
- Institutional capacity strengthening and public awareness raising
- ADB financing will be \$80 million programmed for 2016

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Grant 9173: GMS Livelihood Support for Corridor Towns

Rationale and Scope

- Market development approach to mainstream informal economic activities in three selected GMS towns



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Grant 9173: GMS Livelihood Support for Corridor Towns

Project Outputs

- Construction of three small markets
- Microfinance
- Training and awareness creation

Project Financing

- JFPR grant of \$2.5 million

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Grant 9173: GMS Livelihood Support for Corridor Towns

Current Status

- Cambodia: on-going recruitment of national project management consultant
- Lao PDR and Viet Nam: inception phase

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Grant 9173: GMS Livelihood Support for Corridor Towns

Next Activities:

- Conduct of needs assessment surveys
- Establishment of multi-sector market management committees (MMC)
- Recruitment of detailed engineering design (DED) consultants
- Preparation of DED, feasibility studies, safeguards, and gender action plans

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TA 8186: GMS Climate Resilience in Cities

Rationale and Scope

- To address the need of strengthening the capacities of secondary cities in GMS on climate change adaptation



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TA 8186: GMS Climate Resilience in Cities

TA Outputs and Activities

- Policy dialogues on building climate resilience of cities
- Regional Knowledge Sharing Workshop
- Resource Kit for Environment Sustainability and Climate Resilience in the GMS

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TA 8186: GMS Climate Resilience in Cities

Way Forward

- Finalization of resource kit and translation into Khmer, Laoatian, and Vietnamese
- Publication of the resource kit's English version by 2015

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Looking Forward

- What role should economic corridors and corridor towns play in the overall GMS Urban Development Strategy?
- How can the competitiveness of urban centers be improved through the GMS Urban Development Strategy?
- What is the role of the GMS Urban Development Strategy? What should it be doing for member countries?

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Session 6: Synthesis of Day 1

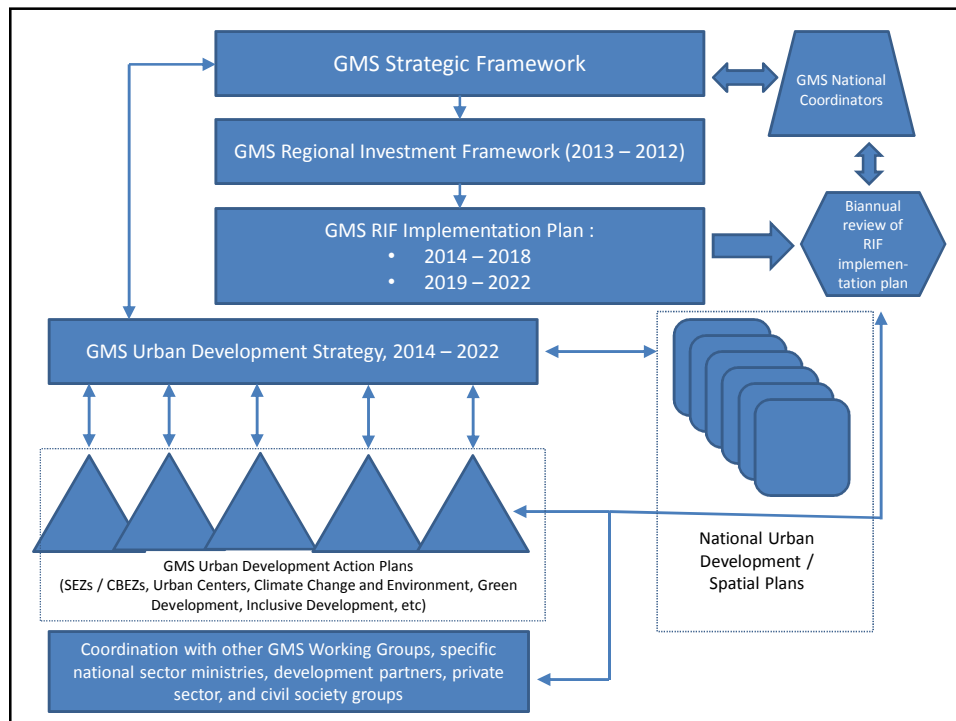
Anupma Jain, SEUW, SERD, ADB

Presentations – Day 1

- Draft GMS Urban Development Strategy
- RIF Implementation Plan (2014 – 2018) and Results of the GMS Sixth Economic Corridors Forum (ECF-6) on Special Economic Zones and Cross Border Economic Zones
- Country Perspectives on the draft GMS Urban Development Strategy and Implementation Plan
- Update and Discussion on GMS Corridors Towns Development Projects and other Initiatives

Synthesis (Discussions): Draft GMS Urban Development Strategy

- Discussions:
 - Role and Vision
 - Strategic Pillars (or Elements)
 - Strategy subthemes (or cross-cutting areas)
 - Timeframe (to 2022 or beyond)
 - Terminology and definitions (document name, key urban centers, SEZs/CBEZs)



Synthesis (Results): Draft GMS Urban Development Strategy

- Important role of the strategy
 - Links to economic corridors
 - Links to national urban planning and development
 - Increased awareness for strategic urban planning
 - In general (planning, enforcement, and public and political support)
 - In border areas (sharing a common environment)
 - Mechanism to support industrialization and urbanization in the subregion (SEZs/CBEZs)

Synthesis (Results): Draft GMS Urban Development Strategy

- Important role of the strategy
 - Provide clarity on definitions
 - Key urban centers, CBEZs
 - Mechanism for capacity development and exchange of lessons and good practices
 - Strengthen GMS coordination and cooperation
 - Strengthen country ownership

Synthesis (Results): Draft GMS Urban Development Strategy

- Strategic Pillars (or Elements)
 - No objection
 - Additional emphasis requested on economic corridor (help focus subregional cooperation and investments)
 - Recognize the role of other logistic centers that can support economic corridor development

Strategic Pillar	Proposed	Additional Emphasis
I	Planning and Development of Key Urban Centers	Includes strategic towns along economic corridors, ports, inland waterways
II	Planning and Development of Border Areas	Particularly border areas linking to economic corridors
III	Capacity Development in Urban Planning and Management	Exchange and transfer of lessons, good practices, and knowledge

Synthesis (Results): Draft GMS Urban Development Strategy

- Strategic subthemes (or crosscutting issues)
 - Competitiveness (SEZs, CBEZs)
 - Green development (green and clean cities)
 - Climate resilience, environmental protection, and disaster risk management
 - Inclusive development (urban poor, ethnic groups women and others)
 - Inclusive growth (regional and national rural-urban linkages)

Synthesis (Results): Draft GMS Urban Development Strategy

- Vision

Sustainable urban development in the Greater Mekong Subregion, achieved through cooperation and partnership, with the aim of lifting people from poverty and spreading the benefits of economic growth to all groups and individuals

Synthesis (Results): Draft GMS Urban Development Strategy

- Timeframe

- 2014–2022 (e.g., aligned with GMS Strategic Framework and regional investment framework)

Or

- Beyond 2022 (e.g., 2014–2030)

Synthesis (Results): Draft GMS Urban Development Strategy

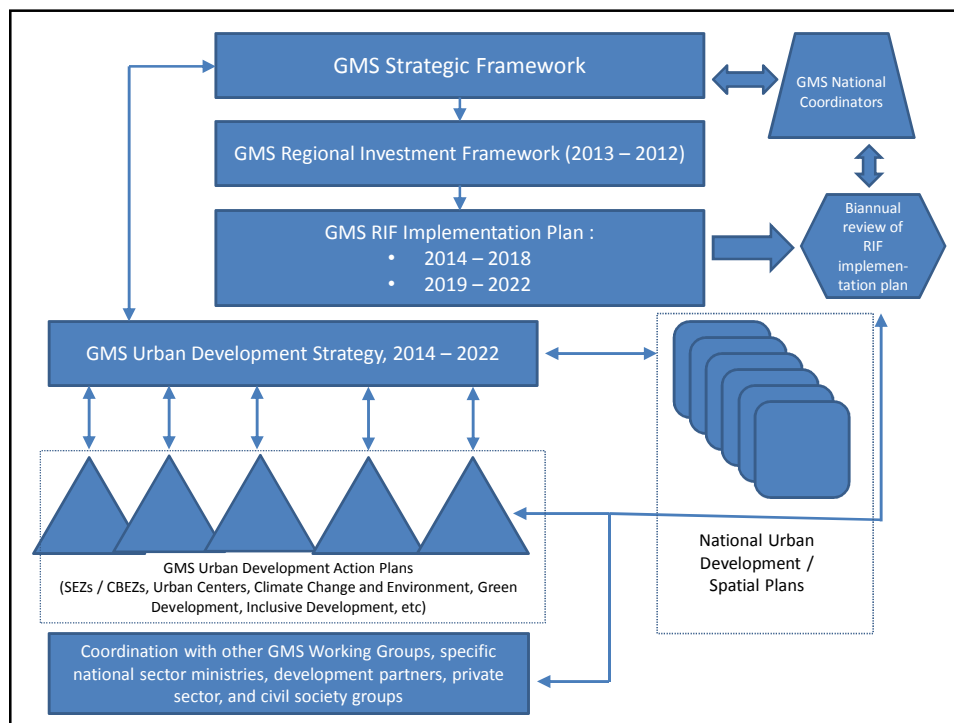
- Implementation
 - Identification of cross-border areas
 - Criteria for prioritization
 - Vulnerability, poverty, sustainability, disaster risk management, Priority border area for 2 or more countries
 - Prioritization for preparation of cross-border spatial development plans, and investments

Synthesis (Results): Draft GMS Urban Development Strategy

- Implementation
 - Inclusion of regional investment plan for urban development
 - 2014 – 2018; 2018 – 2022; proposed
 - Terminology of document
 - strategy, strategic framework, or roadmap
 - Urban Development is Multisector
 - Use the strategy to prepare specific urban action plans to implement strategic pillars or crosscutting issues

Synthesis (Results): Draft GMS Urban Development Strategy

- Implementation
 - Task Force v/s Working group
 - Include SEZs / CBEZs, as it links to urban planning and infrastructure development. Leave software discussions to other forums.
 - No objection to leaving the group as TF or WG
 - Terms of reference of TF (to be discussed)



Thank-you

THIRD MEETING

GMS Urban Development
Task Force

11-12 September 2014 • Vientiane Capital, Lao People's Democratic Republic



THIRD MEETING

GMS Urban Development Task Force

11-12 September 2014 • Vientiane Capital, Lao People's Democratic Republic

Draft GMS Urban Development Strategic Framework - The Way Forward

Choices for the Way Forward

- Must be driven by Task Force Members
- Important for TF members to agree on the GMS Urban Development Strategic Framework and its role
 - Identified as a key deliverable to be presented to the Leaders at the GMS Summit in December 2014
- Important for Urban TF members to agree on the role of the Task Force initiative

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GMS Urban Development Task Force

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Some Options for the Way Forward

- Develop the overall Strategic Framework itself
- Develop some aspects of the GMS Strategic Framework in more detail
- Review national implications of the Strategic Framework in more detail
- Regional training program for urban planning and management
- GMS Databank or Data Book?
- Review Terms of Reference of the Task Force
- Upgrade Task Force to a Working Group

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Develop the overall Strategic Framework itself

First step (before Leaders' Meeting) –

NB: We need a revised Draft for meeting in Bangkok in October and then time to finalise and print the document for the Ministers' meeting

- High Level Framework
- Review and revision of Draft
- Diagram – the Strategic Framework context
- Strategic Urban Pillars – agreed but to be refined
- Cross-cutting areas – greater emphasis
- Timeframe – 2014-2022 with monitoring

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Develop some aspects of the GMS Strategic Framework in more detail

Second steps (after Leaders' Meeting)

- Definition and criteria of CBEZs
- Pilot projects
- Identification of Key Urban Centers – prioritization criteria
- Action Plans – smaller working groups

Regional training program for urban planning and management

- Agreed that capacity development is crucial
- Develop program of formal training
- Use existing knowledge hubs

GMS Databank/Data Book

- **Examine the potential and options for this**
- **Not easy but worth trying**

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Review Terms of Reference of the Task Force

- **Review activities**
- **Upgrade Task Force to a Working Group**

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Task Force Terms of Reference

- a. Finalize and approve its Terms of Reference;
- b. Develop and coordinate a Work Plan (frequency of workplan to be determined);
- c. Contribute to the preparation of a GMS Urban Development Strategic Framework for presentation to the GMS Leaders in December 2014 as a Summit deliverable;**
- d. Oversee the preparation of further detailed plans for particular areas identified in the GMS Urban Development Strategic Framework;**
- e. Undertake monitoring and updating of the GMS Urban Development Strategic Framework; this should include an annual review and additional reviews triggered by major events, such as new versions of GMS and national policy documents;**
- f. Identify programs and mechanisms for regular exchange of ideas, data, plans and policies between GMS country-level Urban Task Forces and with other GMS Working Groups;**
- g. Explore and scope out options (for possible ADB funding) for assembling some form of GMS urban database; this could be a printed urban data book, a digital data record, or an online database;**

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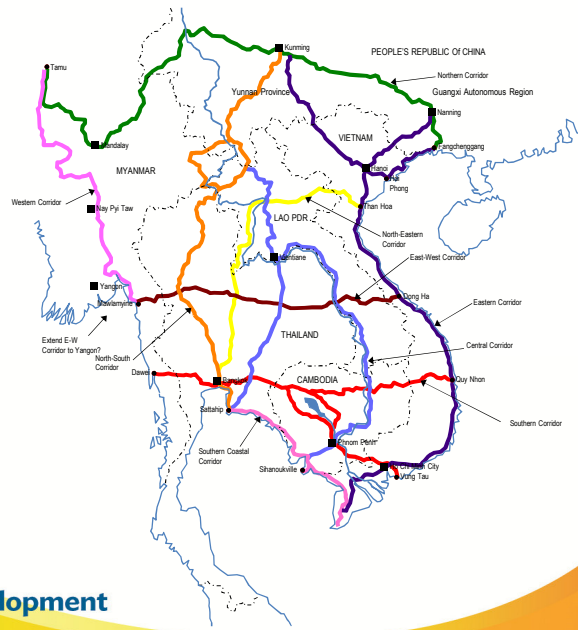
- h. Identify and/or review urban development projects with regional implications (cross-border activities; development of regional hubs; benchmarking of urban environmental targets; city marketing) for inclusion in the GMS Regional Investment Framework (RIF) implementation plan;
- i. Facilitate preparation of regional meetings of the GMS Task Force on Urban Development through providing feedback on conference agenda, content, participants and other preparatory steps, and help in the logistics as necessary in their respective country;
- j. Contribute to the development of a website that will serve as a virtual venue for cross learning, information sharing, and networking of practitioners;
- k. Meet and prepare reports on the outputs and activities of the Urban TF for consideration at future meetings of the Economic Corridors Forum and the GMS Ministerial Conference;
- l. Assess the desirability and viability of establishing a GMS Working Group (WG) on Urban Development and Special Economic Zones or other suitable subregional platforms for addressing regional and national issues in urban development; if necessary, prepare a Terms of Reference for the WG, proposed participants, organization, and other institutional arrangements.**

THIRD MEETING

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Thank-you



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**Third Meeting of the Task Force on Urban Development
12 September 2014, Vientiane, Lao PDR**

**Wrap-Up by Ms. Amy Leung, Co-Chair
Director, Urban Development and Water Division, Southeast
Asia Department, ADB**

Excellencies, Distinguished Members of the Task Force, Ladies and Gentlemen. This has been a fruitful 1.5 days—good discussions, ideas and recommendations on the draft GMS urban development strategy!

I want to thank all of you for your contributions to a very good meeting. We have had some substantive discussions and valuable exchange of views. It is clear that the Urban Task Force process is accelerating and moving forward to achieve the GMS goal of strengthening regional cooperation in urban development and in stimulating integration and competitiveness of GMS corridor towns and border areas. On behalf of the Asian Development Bank, I would like to sincerely thank the Government of Lao PDR for their kind hospitality and for hosting and chairing this meeting.

The presentation by Mr. Richard Mabbitt highlighted the proposed scope of the Draft Urban Development Strategy (now we call Strategic Framework) and the issues that the Strategic Framework can address. It drew particular attention to the need to plan both sides of border areas in coordinated, comprehensive plans. The proposed Framework includes three strategic areas and several cross-cutting themes. It responds to the thrusts of the GMS Strategic Framework 2012-2022; in particular the need for

carefully planned investments in urban development along and around the GMS corridors. The two recommendations emerging from this Third Urban Task Force meeting are:

- (i) The draft strategic framework should incorporate strategic urban centers that may fall outside the economic corridor, but could contribute significantly to GMS corridor development.
- (ii) The inclusion of SEZs/CBEZs discussions is important within the urban planning and development context; however, other forums are necessary to realize the potential of these special / cross-border economic zones. A working definition for CBEZs is particularly important to include in the draft urban development strategy as a way forward.

On the whole the meeting agreed with the strategic pillars (or focus areas) and the cross-cutting themes, and widespread support for the proposed border planning. More detail was requested for some aspects of the draft Strategic Framework, and suggestions were made for the Framework to include additional elements, such as migration, resource usage, employment and disaster risk management.

We also had an update of the current status of the Regional Investment Framework Implementation Plan 2014-2018, and on the findings of the 6th Economic Corridors Forum. These highlighted the need for close coordination of the GMS Urban Development Strategy with the RIF and the work of the ECF.

We thank each country Urban Task Force in providing very clear and comprehensive perspectives on the questions raised. These described priority national urban issues, their approaches to the identification of priority urban centers and border points. While there are some differences in approach, there are also a lot of common ground in terms of the primary issues and the tasks facing each country. We heard about the programs of SEZs in each country and proposals for CBEZs. This is an aspect on which there is variation between the different countries. SEZs vary significantly in size and there is limited understanding on the scope of CBEZs.

All of the Task Forces highlighted a number of areas in which they would like further support from Development Partners, and these included strategic plans, urban plans, infrastructure investments, and capacity development. I have noted all of these requests. Some of you drew attention to the problems of implementing plans and this reinforced the need for both capacity development and awareness raising.

We gave the meeting an update on the program of GMS Corridor Towns Development projects and related initiatives, some of which are just starting implementation.

The discussions on the Way Forward identified a number of next steps, which will be reflected in the revised draft GMS Urban Development Strategy.

The Third Meeting of the GMS Task Force on Urban Development endorsed, in principle:

- (i) The draft GMS urban development strategic framework with further refinement to the draft;
- (ii) Endorsement of the Prioritized List of Urban Development investments and technical assistances projects in the RIF;
- (iii) Endorsement of the top ranked Urban Development investments and technical assistances included in the RIF Implementation Plan 2014-2018; and
- (iv) The proposed revision of the Terms of Reference for the Urban Task Force was reviewed and adopted with some minor edits.
- (v) Timing and location of the next meeting of the GMS Task Force on Urban Development.
- (vi) Submission of the confirmed list of Urban Task Force members.

Once again I would like to express my appreciation for the lively discussions. Our team will take on board all of your comments and a revised draft GMS Urban Development Strategic Framework will be shared with you in the coming weeks (by end-September / early-October). This same draft will be shared with the GMS Senior Officials Meeting on 9-10 October in Bangkok. We noted that countries have requested about three weeks to review and endorse the final draft; hence we would greatly appreciate if we could receive your endorsement by 31 October to allow time for ADB to support the Task Force in layout and typesetting the document. We have been requested by the GMS secretariat to

have the document published and ready by 30 November in time for the GMS Submit in December.

Thank you again for your active participation and an opportunity for me and our team to engage with you on such an important topic. We are dealing with a dynamic and important part of the World. A sub-region that is urbanising rapidly and that is likely to play an increasingly important role in the economy of the Asia-Pacific region. I sincerely believe that the Urban Task Force has a critical job in strengthening regional cooperation and integration, disseminating knowledge, and generally improving the planning and management of urban development in the sub-region.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our ADB colleagues that have joined this meeting—representing other regional departments and GMS sector initiatives. Please join me in thanking the GMS Secretariat and colleagues for their hard work in organizing and arranging this meeting.

Wish you all safe travels home.