

**Greater Mekong Subregion
24th Annual Meeting of the Working Group on Environment
Kunming, People's Republic of China, 1-2 April 2019**

RECORD OF DISCUSSION

1. The members of the Working Group on Environment (WGE) from the six countries of the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS), namely, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the People's Republic of China, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Kingdom of Thailand, and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, met in Kunming, PRC on 1 April 2019 for the 24th Annual Meeting of the WGE (WGE 24) and attended the Consultation Workshop on Proposed GMS Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability Program (CCESP) from 1 to 2 April 2019.
2. The meeting commended the achievements of the Core Environment Program (CEP) Phase II and sought support for speedy implementation of the GMS CEP Strategic Framework and Action Plan. The WGE members provided valuable inputs to the proposed CCESP, including best practices to be introduced and/ or scaled-up in the GMS.
3. The participants suggested the following priorities under various CCESP themes:
 - a. **Climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction:** Accelerate adaptation and disaster risk reduction efforts through i) creating GMS-wide platform on climate and disaster resilience; ii) strengthening capacities to mainstream climate resilience in development planning; iii) supporting community efforts in building resilience; iv) demonstrating ecosystem-based adaptation approaches; and v) piloting innovative disaster risk financing instruments.
 - b. **Low carbon transition:** Support GMS countries to implement Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) focusing on (a) agriculture, forestry and land-use, (b) energy, and (c) transport sectors through i) preparing climate investment plans; ii) developing monitoring, reporting and verification frameworks; and iii) preparing concept papers for investment projects on low carbon agriculture, energy, and transport (Green Freight).
 - c. **Climate-smart ecosystem landscapes:** Promote climate-smart and nature-based solutions for the management of ecosystem landscapes, and biodiversity conservation through i) designing innovative financing mechanisms for ecosystem services (e.g., climate change mitigation and adaptation benefits); and ii) strengthening capacity of local institutions to mobilize finance.
 - d. **Pollution control and sustainable waste management:** Assist the GMS countries to implement circular economy through (i) strengthening capacities for environmental data management; (ii) providing policy support for pollution control

and sustainable waste management; and (iii) conducting feasibility studies and preparing concept papers for sub-regional investments.

- e. **Advanced technologies for climate actions and environmental sustainability:** Promote enabling environment for the uptake of green technologies for i) climate action monitoring; ii) pollution monitoring and management; iii) sustainable forest management; and iv) early warning systems to enhance adaptation through pilot projects, policy support and capacity building.
- f. **Financing low-carbon and climate-resilient infrastructure and technologies:** Support GMS countries to mobilize climate and environmental finance through i) identification of existing barriers for accessing climate finance; ii) building partnerships with regional and international organizations and the private sector; iii) piloting innovative financing options (e.g., blended finance, public-private partnerships); and iv) enhancing capacity of financial institutions and private sector to preferentially support green technologies and sustainable infrastructure.

4. The meeting noted the importance of implementing the GMS Ha Noi Action Plan 2018-2022 and GMS Regional Investment Framework (RIF) 2022 as adopted by the GMS Leaders in their 2018 Summit, which include strategies, action plans, projects and a RIF updating process in the environment and agriculture sectors, among others.

5. The members of the WGE extend sincere appreciation to the CEP co-financing partners: the Government of Sweden, the Nordic Development Fund, the Global Environment Facility, and the Asian Development Bank. The members of the WGE encouraged ADB and development partners to continue to coordinate and support the next phase of the program and strengthen shared commitment and partnership for a more integrated, prosperous, inclusive, resilient and sustainable GMS.

6. The members of the WGE appreciate the acceptance of the Government of Lao People's Democratic Republic to host the 25th Annual Meeting of the WGE in 2020.

7. Finally, the members of the WGE appreciate the Government of the People's Republic of China, particularly the Ministry of Ecology and Environment, for hosting the WGE-AM 24 and ADB for its support for organizing the event.