

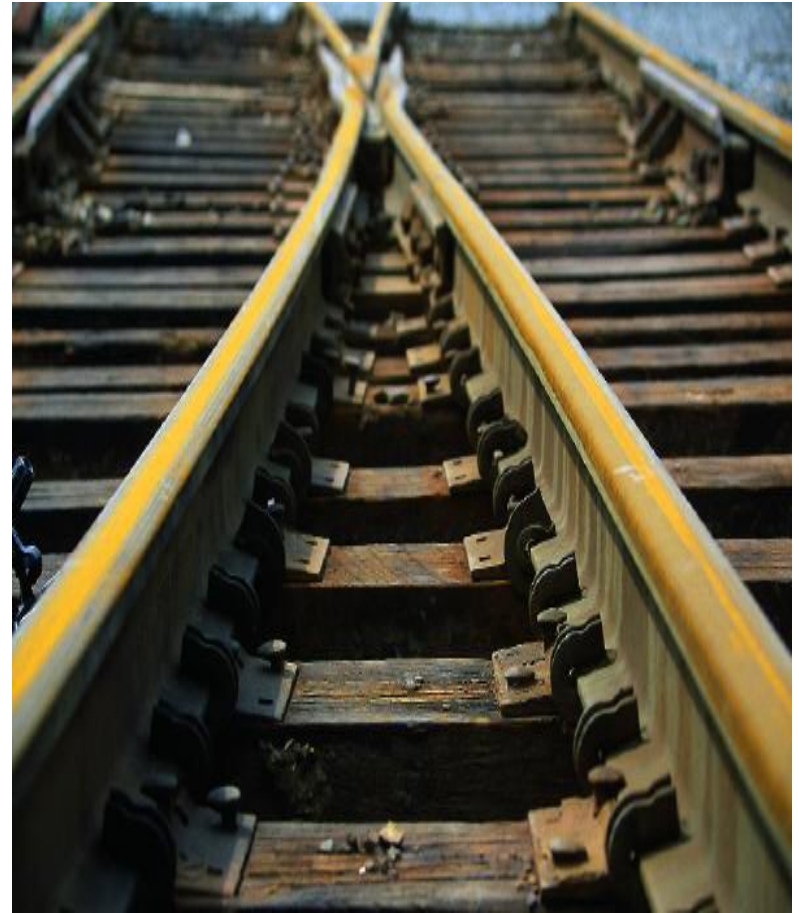
The Greater Mekong Railway Association (GMRA) AN UPDATE

21 January 2021

Ba Myint

Current Chair for Myanmar

Subregional Transport Forum (STF 24)

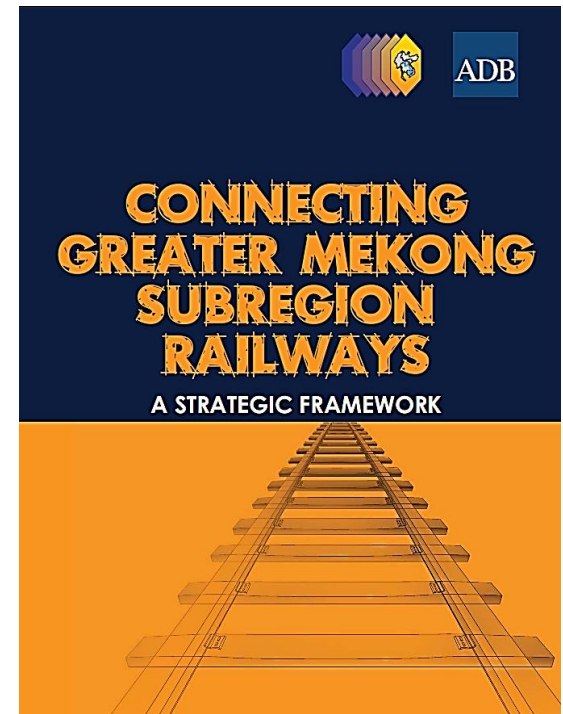


GMRA Mission

To increase railway connectivity throughout the GMS in order to promote efficient, safe, and environmentally sustainable rail transport of goods and people with and beyond the subregion.



Background of the Greater Mekong Railway Association (GMRA)



- ADB Technical Assistance:
 - **TA 7255-REG**: GMS Railway Strategy Study (2009)
 - **TA 7678-REG**: Planning the GMS Railway Coordination Office (2010)

ADB support for GMRA establishment.....1

- **TA-7678 REG:** Greater Mekong Subregion: Planning the GMS Railway Coordination Office, (Dec 2010 – Sep 2012)
- **TA 8529-REG:** Support for the Establishment of the Greater Mekong Railway Association (Dec 2013 – Aug 2016)
- Results of these TAs described on next slide

Key Agreements on the GMRA



- Proposal to establish GMRA was ratified at the 18th GMS Ministerial Meeting, Nanning, PRC 12-13 December 2012.
- MOU establishing the GMRA was signed by all countries – this was completed on August 8, 2014
- GMRA membership comprise the 6 GMS countries as the founding members.
- GMRA initially established as a non-legal intergovernmental forum under the GMS Program with ADB providing secretariat functions
- Medium term goal is to create the GMRA as a legal, international organization

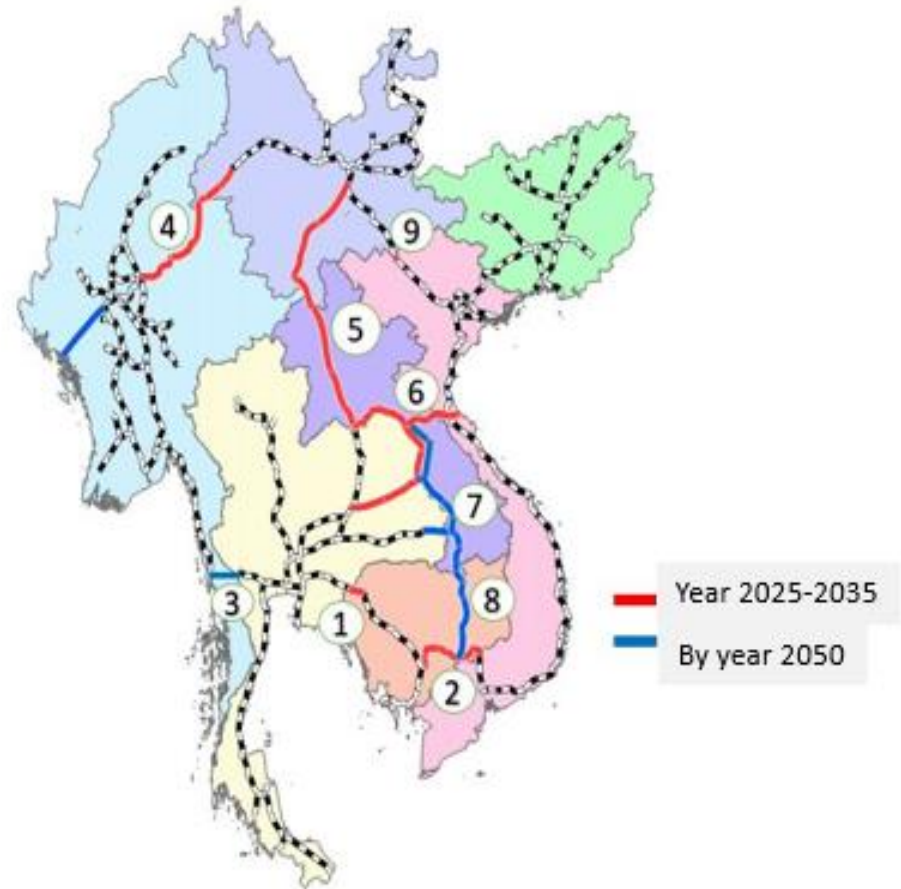
ADB support for GMRA establishment.....2

- **TA 9123-REG:** Connecting the Railways of the Greater Mekong Subregion (Jun 2016 – Dec 2018)
- **TA 8748-REG:** Support for Implementing the Action Plan for Transport and Trade Facilitation in the Greater Mekong Subregion Subproject 2 – component on Framework for Cross-Border Railway Transport Connectivity Agreement (Oct 2014 – June 2019)
- Outcomes of these TAs are described in the next slides

Outcome of TA 9123-REG

Connecting the Railways of the Greater Mekong Subregion (First Phase)

- Prioritization of the 9 cross-border rail links
- Pre-Feasibility Study assessments of each
- Development of a multi-modal GMS transport demand model



Outcome of TA 8748-REG

Appendix I to the Framework Agreement

Indicative and Non-Exhaustive List of Future Annexes to be Adopted by the Contracting Parties

- Prepared the draft Framework for Cross-Border Railway Transport Connectivity Agreement (CBRTCA)
- The agreement when finalized will provide a high level strategic framework agreement for cross-border rail transport supplemented by a series of protocols (see on right)
- On 24 May 2019, GMS countries further negotiated the CBRTCA in ADB HQ, Manila but some details remain to be resolved.

Annex 1:	Transport of Dangerous and Prohibited Goods
Annex 2:	Transport of Perishable Goods
Annex 3:	Technical Specifications for Interoperability (TSI)
Annex 4:	Declaration of Conformity and Suitability for Use
Annex 5:	Routes and Border Crossing Points
Annex 6:	Railway Transport Transit Routes
Annex 7:	Joint Assets
Annex 8:	Border Crossing Formalities
Annex 9:	Cross-Border Movement of People
Annex 10:	Requirements for the Transport of People
Annex 11:	Ticketing and Allocation of Funds
Annex 12:	Transit and Inland Clearance Customs Regime
Annex 13:	Charges Concerning Transit Railway Traffic
Annex 14:	Temporary Importation of Containers
Annex 15:	Memorandum of Understanding for the Establishment of the Greater Mekong Railway Association
Annex 16:	Private Sector Intervention in Funding Mechanisms
Annex 17:	General Rules for Carriage of Goods

NEW TA 9918-REG:

Connecting the Railways of the Greater Mekong Subregion (Phase 2)
(May 2020 – Dec 2021)

Outputs

1. Organizational structure of the GMRA improved
2. Operational readiness plan for the GMRA developed
3. GMS railway network development strategy updated
4. Updated GMS transport demand model prepared
5. Bankable railway projects identified in GMS countries

Outcome

GMRA functioning with adequate capacity and funding

- In addition to the 5 outputs described a new output has been added “A1: Framework Agreement for the CBRTCA Finalized” through up to 3 negotiations in 2021
- Rationale: the CBRTCA is a critical instrument to operationalize the GMRA as a legal, international organization with permanent staff and sustainable funding

Thank you.