

Greater Mekong Railway Association (GMRA)

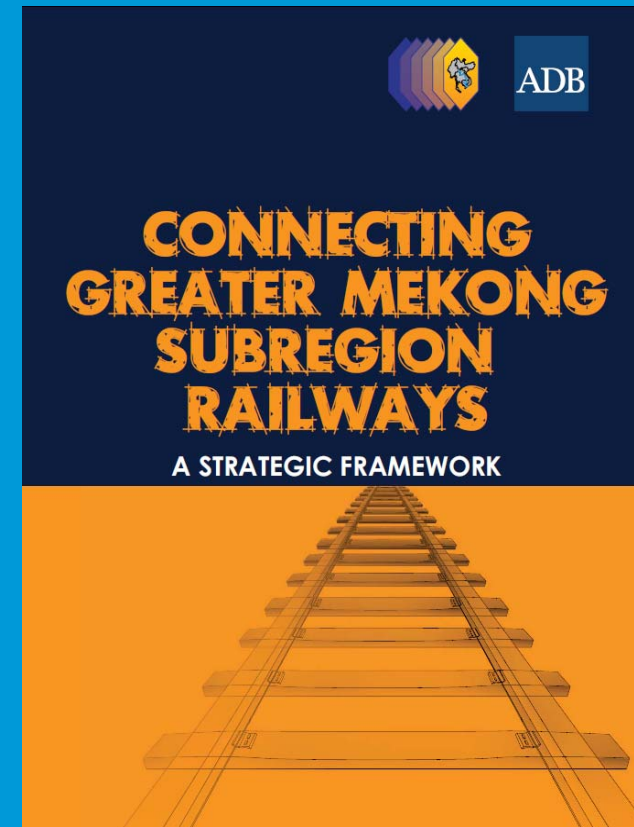
An Update



Background of the GMRA

ADB Technical Assistance:

- Connecting Greater Mekong Subregional Railways: A Strategic Framework (2010)
- Planning the GMS Railway Coordination Office (2013)



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.



Key Agreements



- Proposal to establish GMRA was ratified at the 18th GMS Ministerial Meeting, Nanning, PRC 12-13 December 2012.
- GMRA membership to comprise the 6 GMS countries as the founding members.
- GMRA to be established as a non-legal intergovernmental forum under the GMS Program.
- ADB to initially serve as Secretariat.

Goals and Priority Actions

- Ensure that all GMS countries are connected to a GMS rail network by 2020.
- Promote the development of a seamless GMS rail network by:
 - Agreeing on technical standards of interoperability
 - Streamlining and harmonizing procedures for cross border movement of goods and people.



Goals and Priority Actions

- Develop the institutions and procedures to effectively integrate the national railways across the GMS.
- Ensure that railways, rolling stock and equipment are modern and sufficient to meet the demand for rail services.



- Involve the private sector, as required, in the planning and development of the GMS railway network.

GMRA Event Highlights

Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

- MoU has been signed by all member countries
- Board of Directors have been nominated by each member country



GMRA Related Technical Assistance (TAs)

- **TA 8529** Support for the Establishment of the Greater Mekong Railway Association (April 2014 – June 2016)
- **TA 9123** Connecting the Railways of the Greater Mekong Subregion (On-going)
- **TA 8748** Support for Implementing the Action Plan for Transport and Trade Facilitation in the Greater Mekong Subregion Subproject 2 (On-going)

TA 8529 Support for the Establishment of the Greater Mekong Railway Association (April 2014 – June 2016)

- Provide secretariat and capacity building support to the newly signed GMRA
- 2 year funding from the ADB amounting to US \$225,000
- MOU states that countries should decide on organizational structure of the GMRA as well as it's funding for continued operations after 2 years

TA Accomplishment Agreed on Priority Missing Links

Link 5:
LAO-PRC
Boten/Mohan

Link 9:
VIE-PRC
Hekou/Lao Cai

Link 4:
MYA-PRC
Muse/Ruili

Link 6:
LAO-VIE
Thakhek/Mu
Gia/
Vung Ang

Link 7:
THA-LAO-VIE
Chongmek/
Vangtau
Lao Bao

Link 3:
MYA-THA
Dawei/
Banpunamron

Link 8:
LAO-CAM
Dong Kralor/ Voun Kam

Link 1:
CAM-THA
Poipet/Border
Bridge/
Aranyaprathet

Link 2:
CAM-VIE
Snoul/ Loc Ninh



TA Accomplishment Working Groups

Group	Objectives (ToR)
<p>1. Network Connectivity Country Leads: Cambodia and Viet Nam</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop plan for completing missing links (ADB has proposed TA to look at pre-feasibility/feasibility studies including costs and timelines) • Develop investment requirements and identify financing options • Develop marketing program to sell to potential financiers • Define reporting requirements and data to be collected
<p>2. Network Integration and Inter-operability Country Leads: Lao PDR and Thailand</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop agreements/ recommendations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Intergovernmental ○ Bilateral/Technical to define <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Equipment and infrastructure specifications and standards ➢ Safety standards ➢ Modifications to customs, immigration and quarantine (CIQ) systems to ensure enhance connectivity • Institutions – ticketing and freight billing • Train inter-operability
<p>3. Partnerships and GMRA Operation Country Leads: PRC and Myanmar</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify various membership options, including outside GMS member countries • Develop approach & methods for attracting private participation/funding in the GMRA, to include best practices of UIC and OSJD • Identify GMRA operational requirements and funding options, especially post ADB support (ending 2016)

TA Events

- Two General Meetings
 - March 2015 (Kunming, PRC)
 - September 2016 (Beijing, PRC)
- Technical Working Group Meetings
 - Oct 2014 (CAM) - Mar 2016 (CAM)
 - Nov 2014 (THA) - Sept 2016 (PRC)
 - Jan 2015 (THA)
 - Mar 2015 (PRC)
 - Jun 2015 (LAO)
 - Sept 2015 (VIE)
 - Dec 2015 (MYA)
 - Jun 2016 (THA)



TA 9123 REGIONAL: Connecting the Railways of the Greater Mekong Subregion (On-going)

- To support the GMRA mission to ensure that all GMS countries are connected to a GMS rail network.
- Promote rail as an attractive and viable mode of transport.
- Assess network impacts of rail connections
- TA amount US\$ 500,000

Status

Working for the outputs including:

- Update studies prepared for the nine rail priority links
- Develop criteria to assess and prioritize the financing options for the viable rail links
- Identify potential financing modalities for the viable rail links
- Conceive network impact scenarios for alternate regional rail development

TA 8748 Support for Implementing the Action Plan for Transport and Trade Facilitation in the Greater Mekong Subregion Subproject 2 (On-going)

- Requested for TA support to look into the formulation of a high level cross border agreement in the GMS rail sector
- The agreement will provide a high level strategic context, supplemented by a series of existing or new bilateral agreements, as required.

Status

- Inception meeting last May 2017 to discuss what the countries would like to see in the High Level Cross Border Rail Agreement
- Draft sent to all member country representatives for their review last 4 July
- Follow-up meeting held just this week, 17-18 July to discuss the thoroughly the draft high level document

Issues

- Investment required to develop a connected railway network could cost as much as \$40B
- Need to ensure that the both national networks and regional connections are upgraded and operating efficiently
- With the current TAs, Working Group 3 on GMRA Operations and Membership is currently not being funded.
 - secretariat operations
 - structure of the organization
 - conditions for participation by other organizations and private companies

THANK YOU