

# Greater Mekong Railway Association (GMRA)

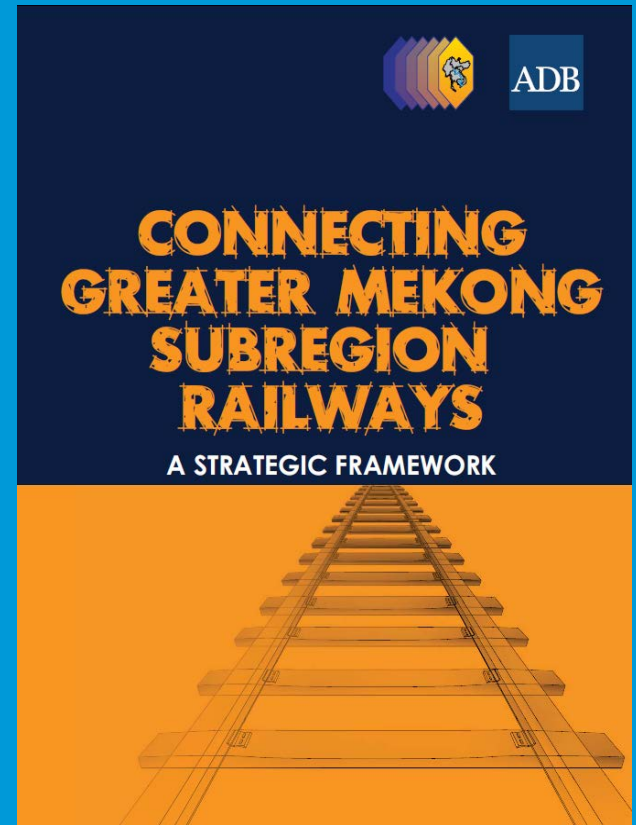
## An Update



# 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 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)

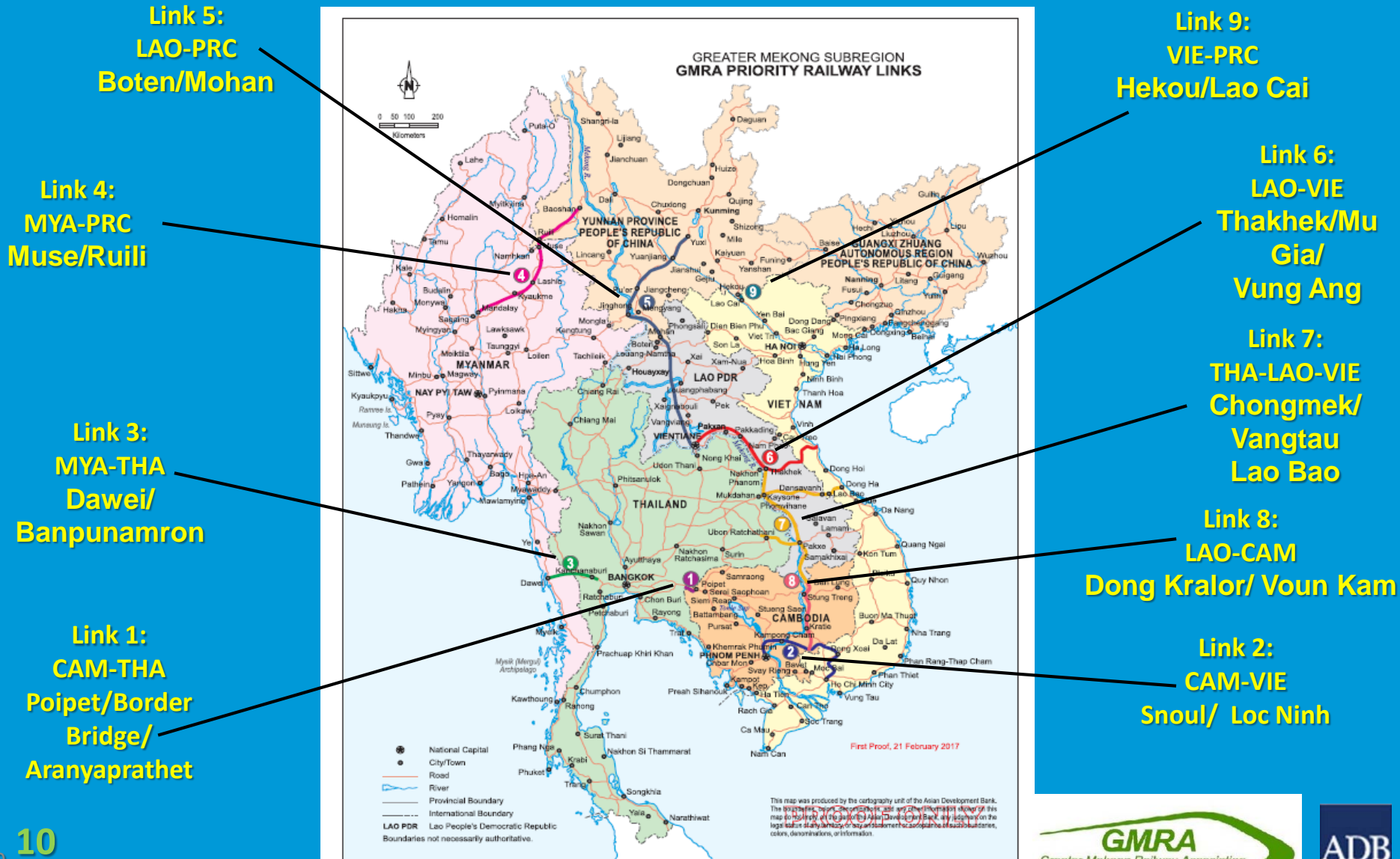
- **TA 8529-REG** Support for the Establishment of the Greater Mekong Railway Association (April 2014 – June 2016)
- **TA 9123-REG** Connecting the Railways of the Greater Mekong Subregion (On-going)
- **TA 8748-REG** Support for Implementing the Action Plan for Transport and Trade Facilitation in the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



# TA Accomplishment Working Groups

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

# TA Events

- Three (3) General Meetings
  - March 2015 (Kunming, PRC)
  - September 2016 (Beijing, PRC)
- Technical Working Group Meetings
  - Oct 2014 (CAM)
  - Nov 2014 (THA)
  - Jan 2015 (THA)
  - Mar 2015 (PRC)
  - Jun 2015 (LAO)
  - Sept 2015 (VIE)
  - Dec 2015 (MYA)
  - Mar 2016 (CAM)
  - Jun 2016 (THA)
  - Sept 2016 (PRC)



# 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

- Final draft report submitted to all GMRA member countries at the GMRA 3<sup>rd</sup> Board of Directors (BOD) Meeting held on 22 March 2018 in Vientiane, Lao PDR.
- Awaiting feedback from member countries to finalize report.

# 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 Cross Border Rail Framework Agreement
- New version for circulation to member countries for review/comments after 4-5 June 2018 meeting



# 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.**