



**Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS)
Meeting of Senior Officials of the National Transport Facilitation Committees
And Subcommittee Meetings
4-5 September, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar**

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

I. Introduction

1. The Meeting of Senior Officials of the National Transport Facilitation Committee (hereinafter “the Meeting”) was held in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar, on 4-5 September 2013. The Meeting was attended by senior officials representing Transport, Customs, Immigration, Quarantine, Commerce, the GMS National Coordination Office, and CEOs from Guarantee Organizations (private sector) of each country. The meeting was chaired by U Sann Aung, Director General, Transport Planning Department and Co-Chaired by Mr. Yushu Feng, Principal Economist (Regional Cooperation), Thailand Resident Mission, Asian Development Bank. The meeting program is provided as **Appendix 1** and the list of participants as **Appendix 2**.

2. The objectives of the meeting are to: i) discuss and finalize the Joint Statement for the six Transport Ministers and the Three-Year Strategic Blueprint/Action Plan for GMS Transport Facilitation, ii) provide updates on the status of implementation of transport facilitation initiatives in the GMS, and identify issues and bottlenecks; iii) conduct a stocktaking of the deliverables under the GMS Transport and Trade Facilitation Action Plan from the 3rd Joint Committee Meeting of the GMS Cross-Border Transport Agreement (3rd JCM) in June 2010 in Vientiane, Lao PDR and iv) finalize program and agree on arrangements for the upcoming 4th JCM.

II. Opening Session

3. H.E. U Chan Maung, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Rail Transportation from Myanmar attended the meeting along with other senior officials from Myanmar. Mr. Sann Aung, Director General, Transport Planning Department, and Mr. Hideaki Iwasaki, Principal Infrastructure Specialist, Extended Mission in Myanmar, ADB, delivered their opening remarks and warmly welcomed all the participants to Nay Pyi Taw and expressed their appreciation to ADB and the Ministry of Rail Transportation for its support and assistance in organizing the meeting. Their opening remarks are provided in **Appendix 3a**.

III. Country Statements

7. H.E. Vasim Sorya, Director General of Administration, **Ministry of Public Works and Transport, Cambodia**; Mr. Ren Weimin, Deputy Director General, Department of International Coordination, **Ministry of Transport, PRC**; Mr. Sensavang Phandanouvong, Director, Division of Transport Techniques and Environment, Department of Transport, **Ministry of Public Works and Transport, Lao PDR**; Mr. Win Khant, Director General, Department of Transport, **Ministry of Rail Transportation, Myanmar**; Mr. Chanchai Suwisuttagul, Inspector-General, **Ministry of**

Transport, Thailand; and Mr. Nguyen Ngoc Thuyen, Deputy Director General, International Cooperation Department, **Ministry of Transport, Viet Nam;** made their country statements on the progress of their support to transport facilitation initiatives in the GMS and provided updates on important milestones, and identified implementation bottlenecks. Their statements are provided as **Appendix 3b.**

IV. Discussion on the Status and Future Directions of Transport Facilitation in the GMS

A. Stocktaking of the Status of Deliverables from the previous JCM

8. The delegations discussed the status of deliverables from the previous 3rd JCM in Vientiane Lao PDR in June 2010. The countries deliberated on what has been achieved and what remains to be done and updated the delivery timeline to ensure that the implementation of the transport facilitation action plan from the 3rd JCM is on track. The updated stocktaking report is provided in **Appendix 4.**

B. Reporting on Subcommittee Meeting of Transport, Customs, Immigration and Quarantine

9. U Sann Aung, Director General, Transport Planning Department, provided a report from the Subcommittee Meetings on Transport and Customs, Immigration, and Health from the previous day held on 4 September 2013 and summarized the discussions from the back-to-back Transport and Customs Subcommittee, Immigration Subcommittee meeting sessions, each country delegation discussed recent developments, implementation issues, and exchanged key information on various important issues such as: Single Stop Inspection and Single Window Inspection mechanisms, coordination of operating hours of border offices, opening of additional border crossing points, routes, and transport corridors, condition and availability of border crossing facilities, infrastructure and personnel, national transport-related laws, regulations, formalities, practices and procedures, coordination, harmonization and simplification of customs inspection procedures and formalities. The delegations emphasized the need for the acceleration of ratification of the CBTA Annexes and protocols and the implementation of exchange of traffic rights in key border crossing points. **Appendix 5** provides the report from the Subcommittee Meetings.

10. The Subcommittees also discussed and deliberated on their respective Subcommittee Work Programs, which identifies priority initiatives and activities, and provides details on the roles and responsibilities of the respective agencies and support from ADB. The delegations are requested to provide their inputs to the 3- Year Blueprint Work Program that will be finalized in the next NTFC SOM in November 2013.

C. Second Working Group Meeting of Transport Associations on Transport Facilitation in the GMS on 14-15 August 2013, PRC

11. Captain Aung Khin Myint, Myanmar Freight Forwarders Association (MIFFA) reported the outcomes and suggestions of the private sector on accelerating transport facilitation in the GMS from the view of guaranteeing organizations from the Second Working Group Meeting of Transport Association on Transport Facilitation in the GMS on 14-15 August 2013 in Pingxiang, Guangxi, PRC. Details of his presentation are provided in **Appendix 6.**

D. Proposed GMS Transport Facilitation Knowledge Portal

12. Mr. David Robinson, ADB Consultant, provided the outline and framework of the proposed GMS Transport Facilitation web portal which shall serve as the platform for knowledge sharing for the GMS countries. Details of his presentation are provided in **Appendix 7**.

E. Discussion on the 3-Year Strategic Blueprint (2013-2015) on Transport Facilitation the GMS/Transport Facilitation Action Plan/Work Program and Draft 4th Joint Statement of the GMS CBTA

13. The delegations provided their comments and inputs for the draft 3- Year Strategic Blueprint. The draft blueprint is provided as **Appendix 8**. Countries are requested to submit their inputs by **15 October 2013**.

V. Frequency of the NTFC SOM/Subcommittee Meetings

14. The meeting agreed that frequency of the NTFC SOM is needed to ensure the smooth implementation of the CBTA and the meeting requested ADB to consider holding the Subcommittee meetings annually, if possible, back to back with relevant GMS meetings and forums. The Meeting also agreed to have joint-Subcommittee Meetings on specific issues during the course of the implementation of the CBTA.

VI. Discussion on the 4th Meeting of the Joint Committee of the Cross-Border Transport Agreement

15. The Meeting agreed that the next 4th Meeting of the Joint Committee for the Cross-Border Transport Agreement will be held in **Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar** on **21-22 November 2013** with support from the ADB, its designated Secretariat. Myanmar will confirm the meeting venue in October 2013, and each country is requested to confirm the meeting date by **15 September 2013**. The draft program of the SOM and 4th JC Meeting is attached as **Appendix 9**.

16. The Meeting discussed and agreed on the draft statement for the 4th Meeting of the Joint Committee, provided in **Appendix 10**.

17. In order to effectively implement the CBTA, the Meeting agreed to propose the establishment of a Subcommittee on Guaranteeing Organizations under the Joint Committee of the GMS CBTA, and requests ADB to develop a Terms of Reference (TOR). The next NTFC SOM will submit this to the Joint Committee for approval.

18. The Meeting noted Cambodia's proposal to invite commerce and foreign affairs department officials to participate in related subcommittee meetings, as appropriate.

VIII. Adoption of the Minutes

19. The Meeting adopted the Summary of Proceedings on 5 September 2013 in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

IX. Acknowledgements

20. The Meeting expressed their sincere thanks and appreciation to ADB and the Myanmar Ministry of Rail Transportation, for the warm hospitality and excellent arrangements.