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‘Early Harvest’ Implementation of the GMS-CBTA

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- The CBTA dates from **1999**, completed ratification in **October 2015** – Difficult to implement as some provisions are outdated to be implemented.
- Balancing the need to update the provisions vs immediate implementation → **‘Early Harvest’ CBTA implementation package -> immediate implementation of provisions that can be implemented .**



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- No limit on the number of journeys, but no single journey can last more than 30 days in any other GMS country



Features of “Early Harvest” Package (ctd)

- Vehicles must stick to the route network described in Protocol 1 of the CBTA. Lao PDR will initially open routes 3 and 9 from Houayxay to Boten and Savannakhet to Dansavanh; Myanmar will join in 2019



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- **JC (Joint Committee)** to review implementation of the “Early Harvest” on annual basis and extend and/or update the MOU timeframe.



Current Status

- Thailand and PRC signed the Early Harvest MOU at the Second JC Retreat held in Hanoi in May 2017, followed by Cambodia and Myanmar (by ad-referendum).
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- Joint Committee agreed to meet twice a year (originally every three years) to monitor implementation. A special session with operators would also be convened at JC Meeting
- Training and outreach materials are being developed (with translation into all GMS languages) and will be posted on the GMS TTF web page at www.greatermekong.org/ttf
- ADB is requested to help facilitate NTFC in monitoring 'Early Harvest' implementation for deliberation in NTFC's reporting to the Joint Committee Meetings.



Next Steps

- Vietnam and Lao PDR to sign the 'Early Harvest' MOU
- Formal launch of operations (vehicle movements using GMS Permits and TADs) from [August 2017](#)
- Countries to exchange [the list \(or Register\) of the GMS Road Transport Permits and TADs](#) issued by each GMS Country.
- Customs officials will be briefed at the participating Protocol 1 border crossings to recognize, stamp and date the TADs Lists (or Registers) of the GMS Road Transport Permits and TADs issued to be exchanged
- Monitoring of implementing status and issues (vis-a-vis officials and the private sector) to be undertaken and reported to the next formal meeting of [the Joint Committee later in 2017](#)



Related activities

- **Road Usage Maintenance Charge (RUMC)** scheme to be piloted in Lao PDR based on Protocol 2 of the CBTA
- Myanmar is expected to conclude negotiations on a bilateral agreement with Thailand this August (with other agreements with neighboring countries in preparation for its ‘Early Harvest’ accession in 2019)
- In parallel with the ‘Early Harvest’, the NTFCs are working to update and improve the existing CBTA with a set of ‘**CBTA 2.0**’ texts currently under consideration
- Need for parallel focus on infrastructure upgrading including at border crossing points for the purposes of **Single Stop Inspection** (CCAs) with only one SSI/SWI site currently in operation



Thank you!