

**Business Meeting of the GMS Working Group on Health Cooperation**  
**The Centara Grand & Bangkok Convention Centre**  
**25-26 July 2023**

The objectives for this forward-looking meeting are to:

- (i) Provide a summary of key achievements and constraints for implementing the GMS Health Cooperation Strategy for 2019-2023,
- (ii) Begin preparation for the GMS Health Cooperation Strategy for 2024-2030, including new areas of interest and partnerships, and
- (iii) Agree on dates for the upcoming country consultations.

**AGENDA**

Day 1, Venue: Lotus Suite 12, 22nd Floor Centara Grand & Bangkok Convention Centre	
8:30 – 9:00	<b>Registration</b>
9:00 – 9:10	<p><b>Welcome Remarks</b>  <u>Speaker:</u> Mr. Rikard Elfving, Principal Social Sector Specialist, ADB</p> <p><b>Welcome Remarks</b>  <u>Speaker:</u> Dr. Suriwan Thaiprayoon, Deputy Director, Global Health Division Ministry of Public Health, Thailand</p>
9:10 – 9:20	<p><b>Introduction of Participants and Program</b>  <u>Facilitator:</u> Dr. Megan Counahan, Consultant, ADB</p>
9:20 – 09:40	<p><b>Session 1: Preparing for success</b> –Summary of recommendations from the 5th GMS Health sector working group meeting in Siem Reap, Cambodia December 2022.</p> <p>This session will briefly recap the discussions and agreements reached in the December Siem Reap meeting to help to shape the forward-looking process and strategy.</p> <p><u>Presenter:</u> Mr. Randy Dacanay, WGHC Secretariat Member and Consultant, ADB</p>
9:40 – 10:10	<p><b>Coffee Break</b>  Venue: Foyer in front of the meeting room</p>
10:10 – 11:00	<p><b>Session 2: Key lessons from implementing the GMS Health Cooperation Strategy for 2019-23.</b></p> <p>This session will present the findings from the recent Informal Interviews to review the GMS Health Cooperation Strategy for 2019-23. The presentation will be followed by discussion on the successes, lessons learnt, challenges, gaps</p>

	<p>constraints and opportunities for the next GMS Health Cooperation Strategy for 2024-30</p> <p><u>Presenter:</u> Dr Kyi Thar, WGHC Secretariat Member and Consultant, ADB.</p> <p><u>Facilitators:</u> Mr. Randy Dacanay, WGHC secretariat Member and Consultant, ADB</p>
11:00 – 11.30	<p><b>Session 3: What’s on the policy horizon?</b></p> <p>This session will provide high-level information on some of the emerging areas in global and regional health, which may influence the GMS-region.</p> <p>How is the new Strategy aligned with the upcoming APSED IV or GMS Long Term Strategic Framework 2030 or ASEAN’s health activities? What is the One Health High-Level Panel (OHHLEP) policy agenda showing us? Will the UNGA High-Level Meeting on Pandemic, Prevention, Preparedness and Response, in September 2023 reach a concise and action-oriented political declaration?</p> <p><u>Presented:</u> Dr Megan Counahan, Consultant, ADB</p>
11.30 – 12.15	<p><b>Session 4: Country focal points to be part of the Strategy Development</b></p> <p>During this session each focal point can share their early considerations, concerns, or challenges for the development of new GMS health cooperation strategy 2024-2030.</p> <p>In alphabetic order:  Cambodia (3-5 mins)  Laos (3-5 mins)  People's Republic of China (3-5 mins)  Thailand (3-5 mins)  Viet Nam (3-5 mins)</p> <p><u>Facilitated:</u> Mr. Randy Dacanay and Dr Kyi Thar, WGHC secretariat Members and Consultants, ADB</p>
12:15 – 13:30	<p><b>Lunch</b></p> <p><b>Venue:</b> VENTISI Restaurant Located 24th floor</p>

13:30-15:00

### **Session 5: Possible new areas for consideration**

This session will explore some early ideas for regional cooperation in the new GMS Health Cooperation Strategy 2024-2030.

We will discuss (i) where there are connections to the cross-cutting themes in the strategy (e.g., climate change)? And (ii) What results can the new strategy help to bring to the region:

#### Brainstorming ideas:

Could it be a high-level political commitment to road safety?

Maybe its standardised regulation of medicines and therapeutic products through the GMS?

Is it improving air quality?

Or is it reducing the risks posed by microplastics and micropollutants?

Perhaps manufacturing motorcycle helmets for improved safety?

#### **Transport**

This area of cooperation was one of the first for the GMS. The Subregional Transport Forum (STF) has its fourth strategy—GMS Transport Sector Strategy 2030

#### **Tourism**

Work of the GMS tourism working group has included marketing sustainable and pro-poor tourism in the subregion through a range of initiatives including improving border facilities and management.

#### **Environment**

Forests, wetlands, mangroves, farmlands, and other ecosystems account for between 20% and 55% of the subregion's wealth. Better planning and management are needed to avoid food shortages, price shocks, health hazards, and environmental damage.

#### **Agriculture**

Agriculture is the backbone of the GMS economies. The GMS agriculture ministers expressed a joint vision of promoting the GMS as a leading supplier of safe, quality and climate-friendly agri-food products.

#### **Urban Development**

This is a newer area of cooperation which oversees urban development –modern

	environmental services and infrastructure (e.g., water, wastewater, and solid waste management) all contribute to health impacts.
15:00 –15:30	<b>Coffee Break</b> Venue: Foyer in front of the meeting room
15:30 –16:00	<b>Session 6: Climate Change</b> The 5 <sup>th</sup> GMS meeting discussed the emerging challenges of addressing climate change risks and the role that regional cooperation plays. During that meeting The Stockholm Environmental Institute suggested regional cooperation frameworks could play a prominent role in managing the transboundary climate risks to health and enhancing resilience to the climate change impacts on health.  This session will look again at the issue of Climate Change and discuss where regional efforts could focus in the new strategy.  <u>Facilitated</u> : Dr. Megan Counahan, Consultant, ADB
16.00–16:30	<b>Session 7: Digital Health</b> The common vision of GMS countries by 2030 is to extend their collaborations from the existing health security initiatives to overall health system strengthening approaches.  Integrated Digital health information systems was a key milestone outlined by participants during Siem Reap Meeting.  This session will look again at Digital Health and discuss where regional efforts might focus in the new strategy.  <u>Facilitated</u> : Dr. Megan Counahan, Consultant, ADB
16.30	<b>End of meeting Day 1</b>
18:00-21:00	Light Dinner Venue: UNOMAS Restaurant (54th floor)

Day 2, Venue: <b>Lotus Suite 12, 22nd Floor Centara Grand &amp; Bangkok Convention Centre</b>	
9:00 – 9:10	<b>Recap of Day 1</b>
9:10– 9:40	<b>Session 8: Zero Draft Outline of the new GMS Health Cooperation Strategy for 2024-2030.</b>

	<p>This session will be an open discussion about the outline of the new strategy. A zero draft will be presented for discussion. What will be the new areas for cooperation? Will the structure of the new strategy be the same as the existing strategy? What needs to change? How do we improve?</p> <p><u>Facilitated:</u> Dr. Megan Counahan, Consultant, ADB</p>
9:40– 10:10	<p><b>Session 9: Timelines and country consultations</b></p> <p>During this session the timeline and milestones (upcoming write shops, approvals, and signoff etc) for the development of the new strategy will be discussed.</p> <p><b>The country focal points will be asked to suggest dates for country consultations.</b></p> <p><u>Facilitated:</u> Dr. Megan Counahan, Consultant, ADB</p>
10:10 – 10:40	<p><b>Coffee Break</b>  <b>Venue:</b> Foyer in front of the meeting room</p>
10:40 – 11:40	<p><b>Session 10: What did you think? Reflections from the country focal points.</b></p> <p>This session will focus the next steps. Have we missed an important issue? Are there any remaining issues to discuss prior to country consultations?</p> <p>In reverse alphabetic order:  Viet Nam  Thailand  People’s Republic of China  Laos  Cambodia</p>
11:40-11:45	<p><b>Closing Remarks:</b></p> <p>Mr. Rikard Elfving, Principal Social Sector Specialist, ADB</p>
12:00-2:00	<p><b>Lunch</b>  <b>Venue:</b> VENTISI Restaurant Located 24th floor</p>