

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

(as of 16 December 2020)

Meeting Objectives	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss the impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) on selected public utilities and how these have responded to address challenges on their operations, financial management and investments • Discuss how COVID-19 has made city governments approach smart city development as well as the introduction of digital solutions for urban planning and service deliver • Update on the draft Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) Strategy 2030, the GMS medium-term COVID-19 response plan, and changes in the GMS Regional Investment Framework that are relevant to the Urban Development Working Group (UDWG) • Agree on the next steps, including the preparation of the next regional meeting 	
Chair:	Mr. Xu Jianping, Director General, Department of Regional Opening-up, National Development and Reform Commission
Co-Chair:	Mr. Antonio Ressano Garcia, Principal Urban Development Specialist, Urban Development and Water Division (SEUW), Southeast Asia Department (SERD), Asian Development Bank (ADB)

17 December 2020, Thursday	
1430–1445	Opening Session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome Remarks by Chair • Welcome Remarks by Co-Chair and Introduction of Participants • Recap of 3rd GMS Working Group Meeting on Urban Development by SEUW, ADB
1445–1535	Session 1: Urban Management and Provision of Basic Public Utility Services under COVID-19 <p>While utilities are resilient, having experienced crises in the past, the unique and unprecedented nature of the COVID-19 pandemic and its consequences are creating an entirely new experience. The impacts can be seen at many levels, namely on their operations and safety, their financial management, and the planning of immediate and future investments. The session will showcase and discuss some good practices as well as lessons learned from the PRC and other GMS countries.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Jiang Jinghao, Director, Department of Resource Conservation and Environmental Protection, National Development and Reform Commission • Mr. Alan Baird, Principal Urban Development Specialist, SERD/SEUW, ADB • Discussion by country delegations (not exceeding 5 mins per country) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Thailand, and Viet Nam • Q&A, Summary by ADB



17 December 2020, Thursday	
1535–1625	<p>Session 2: Development of Smart Cities: Digital Solutions for COVID-19</p> <p>The COVID-19 pandemic has pushed cities to further look at innovative approaches for providing services effectively, enhancing their financial management, and strengthening their urban planning capacity. Some governments are seeing this as an opportunity to develop their smart city agenda and introduce digital technology solutions. The session will showcase how PRC cities are introducing some relevant digital solutions and, discuss any ongoing and planned smart city approaches in GMS countries.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Qiu Aijun, Deputy Director General, China Center for Urban Development, National Development and Reform Commission • Discussion by country delegations (not exceeding 5 mins per country) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Thailand, and Viet Nam</i> • Q&A, Summary by ADB
1625–1705	<p>Session 3: Updates on the GMS Program</p> <p>The GMS Secretariat will brief the UDWG members on the draft GMS Strategy 2030, the GMS medium-term COVID-19 response plan, and changes in the GMS Regional Investment Framework that are relevant to the UDWG.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Pinsuda Alexander, Economist, SERC, SERD, ADB • Discussion by country delegations (not exceeding 5 mins per country) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Cambodia, People's Republic of China, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Thailand, and Viet Nam</i> • Summary by ADB
1705–1720	<p>Closing Session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next steps (5th Urban WG Meeting Date, host, venue, theme) • Other matters • Concluding Remarks by Co-Chair • Acknowledgements by Chair