



Key Takeaways on the GMS Regional Meeting

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Consultation Meetings**

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1. Enhancing Digitalization in the GMS Program

- **Focus:** Discuss strategies and initiatives aimed at improving digitalization within the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) Program.
- **Objective:** Explore ways to leverage technology for enhanced connectivity, efficiency, and development across the GMS countries.

GMS-2030 & Digital Economy Focus:

- GMS-2030 emphasizes leveraging the digital revolution across GMS operations for regional integration and advanced technologies.
- GMS Governments endorsed this initiative at the December 2022 Ministerial Conference in Luang Prabang.
- A response recognizing the importance of the digital economy for growth post-COVID-19.

1. Enhancing Digitalization in the GMS Program (cont')

Presentation of Studies in digitalization in GMS regions:

Sharing insights, challenges, and potential entry points for digitalization in the GMS with stakeholders.

- **Stakeholder Feedback Collection:** Gathering diverse stakeholder feedback on the study's findings and proposed entry points.
- **Role Discussion of Stakeholders:** Deliberation on the roles of private sector, Development Partners, and governments in enhancing digitalization.
- **Building Consensus and Understanding:** Enhancing awareness of digitalization's significance and garnering agreement on priority areas and strategies.
- **Encouraging Collaboration:** Fostering ongoing cooperation among stakeholders and establishing collaboration platforms for digital economy initiatives.
- **Results/Conclusions:** Different levels of digitalization among GMS countries are identified. The role of private sector and local governments are interlinked in driving the digital economy, and it is important to localizing it to the GMS context. The focus should not be on reinventing the entry points, but building on what has been done.

2. Enhancing the Role of Private Sector in the GMS Program

Background and Challenges:

- **The GMS countries recognize the private sector's importance for growth but haven't fully engaged it in the GMS Program.**
- **Limited private sector involvement at institutional and sector levels, and minimal financing via the Regional Investment Framework (RIF).**

The GMS-2030 aims to involve the private sector actively in sustainable development.

- **Focus:** Deliberate on methods to bolster the involvement and contribution of the private sector within the GMS Program.
- **Objective:** Identify opportunities and strategies to harness private sector engagement for sustainable economic growth and development in the GMS region.
- **Results/conclusion:** it was proposed to develop a private sector-focused working group aimed at providing cross-sectoral advice, acknowledging the interlinked nature of various sectors such as health and digitalization, or agriculture and trade. It was highlighted the need to leverage existing knowledge relevant to the private sector in the GMS program, including studies, project information, and procedures. A focal point was suggested to manage and share this information effectively.

3. Development Partners in the GMS Program

Background:

- **The DPM centered around the recommendations of the GMS DPs Study, aiming for improved engagement and cooperation between DPs and GMS countries.**
- **Recommendations included more frequent engagement through various platforms, exploration of broader thematic areas like gender and digitalization, recognizing DPs' contributions, and exploring diverse modalities for conducting the DPM.**
- **Focus:** Engage with Development Partners to strengthen collaboration and coordination within the GMS Program.
- **Objective:**
 - Aimed to broaden, deepen, and proactively engage DPs within the GMS Program across various sectors and programs/projects in the GMS Regional Investment Framework (RIF).
 - Specific objectives included enhancing dialogue, pinpointing entry points in key sectors,

3. Development Partners in the GMS Program (cont')

gathering DPs' feedback on ongoing/proposed projects in the RIF, and strengthening the database on GMS DPs.

- The GMS Secretariat plans to conduct a comprehensive stocktaking exercise among DPs to gather details on their ongoing/future work in the GMS.
- This exercise aims to align collaboration opportunities, identify investment and technical support prospects, and assist in presenting valuable inputs for sector-specific sessions.

ADB presented the Cooperation in Energy Sector, by Ms. Chitra, during the technical consultation which focus on: 1- GMS Energy Cooperation Program expanded to support energy transition through the Energy Transition Task Force (ETTF), 2- GMS ETTF aims to support GMS countries to collectively address the common challenges associated with energy transition and maximize the utilization of region's abundant clean energy resource, 3- A regional power market (day-ahead market) pilot operation proposed using existing interconnections in the ASEAN / GMS grid, 4- Shadow trading platform

3. Development Partners in the GMS Program (cont')

- **Results/Next Steps:**

GMS Secretariat will:

- (i) keep the dialogue open with Development Partners (DPs) and consider deeper discussion on selected sectors and some thematic areas;
- (ii) (match DPs with the GMS Regional Investment Framework (RIF) pipeline; and
- (iii) Strengthen DP database: DPs were requested to participate more on the sector working groups and with the preparations of sector strategies targeted for completion in time for the 8th GMS Summit in 2024, DPs may consider opportunities to interact with GMS countries.

4. Strengthening GMS Program's Engagement with Local Governments

The GMS Secretariat has initiated a study aimed at enhancing the involvement of local governments within the GMS-2030. Recognizing the need for a more integrated and inclusive subregion, GMS-2030 emphasized the necessity of engaging diverse stakeholders, especially local governments, for regional transformation.

- **Focus:** Enhancing collaboration and engagement with local governments within the GMS Program.
- **Objective:** Identify challenges, opportunities, and strategies to facilitate improved involvement of local governments for effective regional cooperation and integration within the GMS.
- **Relevant Results/Conclusions:**
 - To enhance collaboration between countries, emphasizing the need for strengthened cross-border collaboration between countries and local governments located at both sides of the border;
 - establishing smaller forums in border regions

Key Takeaways

Key Takeaways (1/2)

- ❑ **Actively and strongly aligned with GMS-2030, digitalization, private sector, gender mainstreaming and environment sustainability.**
- ❑ **Digital technologies and big data:**
 - **hold massive capacities to forecast and match supply and demand.**
 - **has a high potential to reduce energy usage and emissions from the building sector.**
 - **help to overcome the unpredictability and integration of renewable energy generation.**
- ❑ **VPP or SEM can not be done without sufficient accessibility of information and real-time data using ICT and digitalization across relevant ecosystem other than energy infrastructure.**

Key Takeaways (2/2)

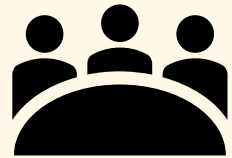
- ❑ As the clear economic and decarbonisation benefits of regional power trade requires a much broader dialogue – so the engagement from the DPs and private sectors are momentous; hence, the Development Partner Meeting (DPM) such as ad hoc roundtable and bilateral consultation should be necessarily conducted with frequent schedules. Particularly, it will significantly influence the success of the EETF goals.
- ❑ In addition, as the generation and transmission huge investment, and cannot be entirely financed by SOEs, and requires private sector participation. So encourage private sector projects, particularly through the PPP, while proactively engaging through roundtables with PS.

How the EETF compliment the GMS-2030



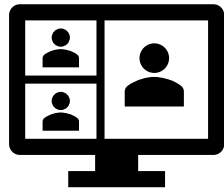
Strengthening the partnership with the ASEAN bodies (HAPUA, APGCC, AREN, ACE), subregional programs (LTMS), and other development partners

- i. Implementing a shadow and pilot regional power market project jointly
- ii. Organizing joint or back-to-back meetings and workshops
- iii. Expanding virtual invitations to other organizations or programs



Increasing and engaging private sector participation

- i. International regional power market operators and interconnector operators
- ii. Existing and potential private IPPs
- iii. Large corporate energy procurement programs



Deploying flexibility in operating EETF meetings and events

- i. EETF Chair country to choose the format of the meeting (physical and virtual) and the location of a meeting venue at the places where synergies can be maximized with other regional critical events such as (ASEAN SOME+3, Asian Clean Energy Forum (ACEF), etc.)

THANK YOU