



## DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS' MEETING

**5 November 2024, 09:00 AM – 4:20 PM**  
**Kunming, Yunnan Province, PRC**  
**Venue: InterContinental Hotel Kunming, PRC**

### CONCEPT NOTE

#### Background

1. The 8<sup>th</sup> Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) Leaders' Summit (8<sup>th</sup> Summit) will be held on 6-7 November 2024 in Kunming, Yunnan Province, People's Republic of China, to be attended by the GMS countries' Heads of Governments and Asian Development Bank (ADB) President. The 7<sup>th</sup> GMS Leaders' Summit (7<sup>th</sup> Summit) held in 2021 approved the [Greater Mekong Subregion Economic Cooperation Strategic Framework 2030](#) (GMS-2030) while reaffirming the importance of partnerships which GMS has promoted since the Program's inception in 1992. The 7<sup>th</sup> Summit mandated the GMS Program to "become an open platform promoting enhanced participation by development partners (DPs), local governments, academia, and civil society."
2. In December 2022, the Development Partners Meeting (DPM) held on the sidelines of the 25<sup>th</sup> GMS Ministerial Conference (MC-25) in Luang Prabang, Lao PDR, focused on the recommendations of the study, entitled **Deepening Development Partners' Engagement in the GMS Program** ("GMS DPs Study").<sup>1</sup>
3. At the Consultation Meeting with DPs held on 19 October 2023 in Bangkok, Thailand, representatives of bilateral agencies and multilateral organizations convened to deepen dialogue between Development Partners and the GMS Program, at crosscutting and sector levels.
4. Prior to the 8<sup>th</sup> Summit, the annual DPM is being organized to be held on 5 November 2024. This year's DPM will aim to engage development partners to share their perspectives in the new GMS initiatives that would allow for a richer exchange of views and sharing of information about the GMS Program as well as the programs and initiatives of the DPs and will help to identify a wider and deeper pool of financial, technical and knowledge resources to address the subregion's expanding development needs.

#### Objectives

5. The objectives of the DPM are as follows:
  - (i) present the highlights of the GMS ISD 2030 which is the main deliverable of the 8<sup>th</sup> GMS Summit of Leaders,
  - (ii) discuss the GMS Digitalization Action Plan 2025-2027 which provides a framework for promoting regional cooperation in digitalization,
  - (iii) present the concept of a Knowledge, Innovation, Digitalization (KID) Initiative as the first activity to be undertaken through the GMS Knowledge Network (GMSKN) in 2025,
  - (iv) provide update on the Regional Investment Framework 2025-2027 (RIF2027) which will support the strategic and operational priorities of GMS-2030,
  - (v) share the activities proposed in the GMS Gender Strategy Implementation Plan (GSIP) 2025–2030 to develop the capacity of the GMS Program requirements to achieve the objectives of the Gender Strategy, and
  - (vi) present the DPs programs supporting the GMS Program and the subregion.

**Participants.** GMS Senior Officials and representatives of development partner organization will be invited to participate in this meeting.

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<sup>1</sup> More on the GMS DPs Study at: <https://greatermekong.org/g/deepening-development-partners-engagement-greater-mekong-subregion-program>



**PROVISIONAL AGENDA <sup>1</sup>**

<b>Chair and Moderator:</b>	<b>Mr. Winfried Wicklein</b> Head of the GMS Secretariat
<b>0830 – 0900</b>	<b>REGISTRATION</b>
<b>0900 – 0905</b> (5 mins)	<b>Welcome Remarks by Chair</b>
<b>0905 – 0920</b> (15 mins)	<b>Opening Statements from GMS Country Delegates</b>
<b>0920 – 0930</b> (10 mins)	<b>Session 1: GMS Innovation Strategy for Development 2030 (GMS ISD 2030)</b>
	<i>The session will present the highlights of the GMS ISD 2030 which is the main deliverable of the 8<sup>th</sup> GMS Summit of Leaders. The GMS ISD 2030 identifies ways of enhancing cross-border collaboration and cooperation to maximize the potential and efficiency of innovation in the subregion.</i>  Presenter: Mr. Neil Foster-Mc Gregor, GMS Secretariat
<b>0930 – 0945</b> (5 mins)	<b>Discussion/Intervention</b>  Ms. Li Hongna, Deputy Director, Ministry of Finance. People's Republic of China.
<b>0945 – 0950</b> (15 mins)	<b>Open Discussion</b>
<b>0950 – 1000</b> (10 mins)	<b>Session 2: Update GMS Digitalization Action Plan 2025-2027</b>
	<i>The GMS Secretariat will brief the meeting on the GMS Digitalization Action Plan 2025-2027 which provides a framework for promoting regional cooperation in digitalization. The session will present initiatives to deliver both immediate and long-term benefits across three sectors of the GMS Program—agriculture, tourism, and trade and investment.</i>  Presenter: Mr. Antonio Ressano, GMS Secretariat
<b>1000 – 1010</b> (10 mins)	<b>Discussion/Intervention</b>  Dr. Marlar Myo Nyunt, Director General, Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, Myanmar.
<b>1010 – 1025</b> (15 mins)	<b>Open Discussion</b>
<b>1025 – 1045</b> (20 mins)	<b>Coffee Break</b>
<b>1045 – 1055</b> (10 mins)	<b>Session 3: Knowledge Network: Work Plan and Knowledge for Innovation Program</b>

<sup>1</sup> The format of Sessions 1–5 will include (i) presentation; (ii) discussion/intervention of selected development partner (DP) and GMS country; and (iii) open discussion. Session 6 will comprise DP discussion of support to GMS Program.



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	<p><i>The session will present the concept of a Knowledge for Innovation (Kfi) initiative as the first activity to be undertaken through the GMS Knowledge Network (GMSKN) in 2025. The Kfi is an integrated program that will deliver a set of complementary knowledge services and products such as training modules, policy briefs and communities of practice.</i></p> <p><i>The initial chosen theme is around sustainable agrifood systems with an overlay of sectors such as agriculture, digitalization, environment, energy, and trade. The specific topics will focus on advancing of progressive knowledge, innovative technologies and approaches, and digitalization processes.</i></p> <p>Presenter: Mr. Antonio Ressano, GMS Secretariat</p>
<b>1055 – 1110</b> (15 mins)	<p><b>Discussion/Intervention</b></p> <p>Ms. Guohua Liu, Director of Sustainable Energy and Environment Department, Mekong Institute.</p> <p>Chou Heng, Deputy Secretary General, Council for Development of Cambodia/Royal Government of Cambodia</p> <p>Ms. Zhang Lei, Lecturer, Yunnan University, PRC</p>
<b>1110 – 1125</b> (15 mins)	<p><b>Open Discussion</b></p>
<b>1125 – 1135</b> (10 mins)	<p><b>Session 4: Regional Investment Framework 2025-2027</b></p>
	<p><i>The meeting will be briefed on the Regional Investment Framework 2025-2027 (RIF2027) which will support the strategic and operational priorities of GMS-2030. The RIF (i) adopted new criteria for project pipeline, (ii) involved a process for proposing, reviewing, and approving RIF projects, and (iii) developed a list of new project pipelines.</i></p> <p><i>The session will engage development partners to identify potential entry points into the new RIF 2027 aligned to their own programming preferences.</i></p> <p>Presenter: Mr. Asadullah Sumbal, GMS Secretariat</p>
<b>1135 – 1150</b> (15 mins)	<p><b>Discussion/Intervention</b></p> <p>Ayumi Konishi, Senior Advisor to the CEO, Multilateral Cooperation Center for Development Finance (MCDF).</p> <p>Business Council</p> <p>H.E. Mme. Sisomboun Ounavong, Director General of the Department of International Cooperation of the Ministry of Planning and Investment (MPI).</p>
<b>1150 – 1205</b> (15 mins)	<p><b>Open Discussion</b></p>
<b>1205 – 1405</b> (120 minutes)	<p><b>Working Lunch</b></p>



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<b>1405 – 1415</b> (10 mins)	<b>Session 5: GMS Gender Strategy Implementation Plan 2025-2030 (GMS GSIP)</b>
	<p><i>The session will present the activities proposed in the GMS GSIP 2025–2030 to develop the capacity of the GMS Program requirements to achieve the objectives of the Gender Strategy.</i></p> <p>Presenter: GMS Secretariat, Lucia Martin Casanueva.</p>
<b>1415 – 1420</b> (5 mins)	<b>Discussion/Intervention</b> Dr. Ninpaseuth Xayaphonesy, Director General, Department of Women in Development, Lao Women's Union (virtually)
<b>1420 – 1435</b> (15 mins)	<b>Open Discussion</b>
<b>1435 – 1605</b> (90 minutes)	<b>Session 6: DP Perspectives on Partnership and Support to the GMS Program</b>
	<p><i>DPs will present the programs supporting the GMS Program and the subregion.</i></p> <p><i>In person:</i></p> <p><b>Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)</b> – Kazuhiro Nomoto, Partnerships Officer <b>Business Council</b> - Mr. Kriengkrai Thiennukul, Chairman <b>Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) China</b> - Mingming Wang, Senior Advisor <b>Mekong Institute</b> – Ms. Guohua Liu, Director of Sustainable Energy and Environment Department <b>Multilateral Cooperation Center for Development Finance (MCDF)</b> - Ayumi Konishi, Senior Advisor to the CEO <b>Neighboring Countries Economic Development Cooperation Agency (NEDA)</b> – Rapijit Promnart, Director of Policy and Planning Bureau</p> <p><i>Virtually:</i></p> <p><b>International Labour Organization (ILO)</b> – Ms. Xiaoyan Qian, Director <b>International Organization for Migration (IOM)</b> - Mr. Iori Kato, Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific <b>Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)</b> – Ms. Yuko Tanaka, Deputy Director General <b>Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)</b> – Gerrits Andrea, Deputy Head of Cooperation for the Mekong Programme. <b>World Bank (WB)</b> – Paavo Eliste, Practice Manager</p> <p>Moderator: Alfredo Perdiguero, GMS Secretariat</p>
<b>1605 – 1610</b> (5 min)	<b>Wrap Up by the Chair</b>