

Indicative Work Plan 2023 - 2024

1. The Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) Task Force on Trade and Investment Facilitation (TFTI) work plan 2023 – 2024 is built upon the Scoping Study on *“Enhancing Collaboration in Trade and Investment under the GMS program”* completed in February 2022 and the Terms of Reference (ToR) endorsed by GMS SOM in June 2022. The ToR appears in **ANNEX 1**. The work plan shall guide TFTI’s activities and will be monitored against the indicators to be developed and agreed by the TFTI with the aim at developing recommendation to GMS SOM on TFTI by end of 2024. In implementing the work plan, the TFTI shall also coordinate and, where required, collaborate with other relevant GMS working group as well as the private sector.

I. Focused area and Goal

2. The TFTI shall meet at least twice annually, in person or virtually. As and when required, the TFTI will have an open session with other stakeholders during their meeting to maintain close contact with the private sector and address their concerns and feedback on trade and investment policies and facilitation.

3. The TFTI work plan 2023-2024 shall focus on **“digital supply chain”**, which cuts across the TFTI’s three pillars of work as follow:

- **Pillar 1: Digitalization.** Digital supply chain is strengthened through further digitalization. The COVID-19 pandemic has given significant impacts on subregion’s economic activities. Business transactions were stopped or delayed, and subregion’s supply chain was devastated. However, it has posed an opportunity to leverage digital technologies. Against this backdrop, the TFTI will advance digitalization further to build a resilient digital supply chain which helps seamless business transactions.
- **Pillar 2: Improving the Business Climate.** Digital supply chain covers not only international transactions but also domestic transactions. From upstream to downstream, digitalized processes enable smooth flow of money, goods and services, which will entail more business opportunities to diversify trade and investment. As digital supply chain reduces business costs, it will increase subregion’s business competitiveness, leading to attracting more foreign investments. In addition, common digital platform will allow MSMEs to get easy access to the markets.
- **Pillar 3: Capacity Building to maximize FTAs:** Digital supply chain can also promote the use of FTAs. Through digitalized processes, public sector may decrease administrative costs such as when processing Sanitary and Phytosanitary measures and verifying the origin of goods, allowing the reduction of trading cost for the private sector side which will boost their competitiveness and encourage them to maximize their benefits from FTAs. At the same time, digitalization would facilitate the government in monitoring the implementation of the FTAs

Endorsed by GMS Task Force on Trade and Investment by 13 December 2022
through collection of data that would be required in reviewing and/or developing policy to further boost their trade and investment.

4. For the 2023-2024 implementation period, the TFTI aims to facilitate 2 to 3 digital supply chain measures by GMS members. The TFTI will discuss specific quantitative and qualitative indicators to measure their effectiveness, in consultation with GMS working groups and private sector.

II. Indicative activities

5. The TFTI in principle agreed on following activities:

2023	
Q1	2nd Task Force meeting (PRC to chair) and consultation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - discuss the concept on consultation with other committees - exchange information and challenges on digital trade/investment measures - consult with WGA and stakeholders of CBTA
Q2	Convening of training #1 and consultation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - give an overview of digital supply chain to public and private sectors, including MSMEs - consult with private sector
Q3	3rd Task Force meeting (Lao PDR to chair) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - monitor progress - preliminarily discuss the work plan 2024
Q4	Convening of training #2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - [TBC] <div style="border: 1px dashed black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> Review and report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - circulate the proposed work plan 2024 - report to GMS SOM </div>
2024	
Q1	4th Task Force meeting (MYA/THA to chair) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - adopt the work plan 2024 - discuss the outline of the Task Force Report
Q2	Convening of training #3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - [TBC]
Q3	Convening of training #4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - [TBC]
Q4	5th Task Force meeting (VIE to chair) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - finalize the Task Force Report <div style="border: 1px dashed black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Report to GMS SOM - Report to GMS MC and Summit </div>

6. This work plan is subject to change upon agreement by TFTI members.