

# GMS Task Force on Trade and Investment

Proposed Work Plan  
2023-2024



# From the Scoping Study: Proposed Terms and Reference

## OBJECTIVES



- **Act as a strategic steering and advisory body** to prioritize recommendations for enhanced cooperation
- **Collaborate with a broad range of stakeholders** such as related working groups, forums and action programs with implementing the agreements and recommendations of the Task Force.
- Upon completion of the implementation of the task force work programme **in two years, present recommendations to GMS Ministers on the necessity of establishing a GMS Trade and Investment Working Group**
- **Make other recommendations** to the GMS Ministers and Leaders, where relevant.

# From the Scoping Study: Proposed Terms and Reference

## EXPECTED OUTCOMES



**Within two years**, the task force will aim to:

- Conduct possible cooperation in trade and investment to facilitate the transformation of transport corridors into economic corridors
- Monitor and review implementation with a view to provide recommendations to SOM on the need to institutionalize the task force to further cooperation through establishment of a working group on trade and investment
- Conduct activities that would strengthen the foundation for the GMS countries to undertake cooperation in the quick wins area



# From the Scoping Study: Proposed Terms and Reference

## COMPOSITION



- Senior Officials of relevant ministries from the 6 GMS countries, to be nominated by the GMS National Coordinators.
- Representatives from Chambers of Commerce of the 6 GMS countries and regional or subregional Chambers, if any, to represent the interests of the private sector
- CSOs and professional associations which may represent MSMEs, women, youth, start-ups, and bordering areas, among others, with representation from 6 GMS countries.
- Interested Development Partners. On a need basis, expertise from development partners could be sought on a demand basis

# From the Scoping Study: Proposed Terms and Reference

## SCOPE OF WORK



- **Identify priority recommendations/interventions for implementation**, with a supporting work plan or timeline
- **Undertake multi-stakeholder consultations** to tailor recommendations to each GMS members' circumstance
- Identify key deliverables, roadmaps and desired outcomes
- **Identify and coordinate resources required** and, if necessary, conduct capacity needs assessment
- Facilitate the implementation of priority recommendations/interventions
- **Support capacity-building activities** for GMS officials to achieve identified deliverables
- **Pillars of work**: Securing quick wins, diversifying trade and investment, attracting foreign investment, developing SMEs and MSMEs

# How to build a work plan?

A work plan should be SMART - Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Time-bound.



We need to narrow down and focus on specific area(s).



Proposed focus: Digital Supply Chain.



Within the focus;

(1) what to facilitate, (2) what to monitor, and (3) what are Key Performance Indicators (goals)?



## Why do we focus on digital supply chain?

- COVID-19 pandemic posed an opportunity to leverage digital technologies.
- Digitalization comes to one of the forefront of economic development going forward.
- The Scoping Study identified digitalization as a pillar of trade and investment to get “Quick Wins.”
- GMS countries can increase competitiveness by reinforcing digital supply chain.
- We can complement other frameworks and focus on implementation (ASEAN, APEC, ESCAP, etc.).



# Key Performance Indicators in the **GMS Trade and Investment (TI) Task Force (TF)**

What goals  
in two years?

What outcomes do  
we want?

What activities  
(deliverables) do  
we need?

## **Goal:**

GMS digital supply chain participation enhanced



e.g. an increase in the amount of digital payment across borders, an increase in the number of digital TI procedures completed

## **Public sector:**

Identify challenges and enhance TI measures related to digital supply chain (e-commerce, e-Trade Facilitation, FTAs, MSMEs, Etc.)

## **Private sector:**

More understanding on digital procedures and more investment on digital facilities.

## **Several events a year:**

- 2 TF meetings
  - to monitor progress
  - to make decisions going forward
- Consultations with AWG, CBTA and private sector
  - to identify NTB/NTMs
  - to improve SPS (e-SPS)
  - to facilitate digital procedures
- 2-3 trainings
  - to increase digital literacy
  - to get familiar with FTAs and SEZs
  - to encourage more involvement by MSMEs

# From the Scoping Study: List of Possible Deliverables

To choose up to 2 items (1-2) in this list, and align with “Digital Supply Chain”

## SHORT-TERM DELIVERABLES (0-6 months)

- |  |  |   |  |
|--|--|---|--|
| <u>1</u>    | <b>3 months:</b> Having a dialogue with CBTA & agriculture working group to assess the importance of agriculture   | <u>1</u>  | <b>6 months:</b> One knowledge sharing session on inter-agency coordination  |
| <u>2</u>    | <b>6 months:</b> Two GMS country officials trainings on digital literacy   |           | <b>6 months:</b> One knowledge sharing session on SEZs   |
|             | <b>6 months:</b> Two constructive engagement sessions to be held between the private sector and the MSMEs  |           | <b>6 months:</b> One experience-sharing workshops with GMS countries or GMS partner countries on how to upgrade regulatory frameworks or better utilise the FTAs |
| <u>1</u>  | <b>6 months:</b> Conducting research on how GMS countries could maximise FTAs utilisation for capacity building projects   |         | <b>6 months:</b> Formation of digital consortia of subregional entrepreneurs in key industries to enhance the One-Stop Services (OSS)                            |
|           | <b>6 months:</b> Work with the Transport and Trade Facilitation Committee to collect accurate data on current use of preferential certificates of origin for ASEAN+5 (RCEP) current trade and discussion of measures and benchmarks as required to increase future uptake. Additionally, to support work on easing non-tariff barriers along borders |         | <b>6 months:</b> Instituting small-scale local funds for projects and activities to encourage participation  |

# From the Scoping Study: List of Possible Deliverables

To choose up to 4 items (3-6) in this list , and align with “Digital Supply Chain”

## LONG-TERM DELIVERABLES (6-18 months)



**12 months:** GMS strategic planning discussion on establishing a virtual marketplace for exporters with relevant stakeholders



**12 months:** Partnership with local banks to offer schemes to support small businesses

**3**



**12 months:** Deliver workshops to teach MSME and SME players about the available FTAs that they can tap into

**4**



**12 months:** Provide at least three training services on various business topics (e.g. financial management, accounting) that could target specific groups (women entrepreneurs)

**5**



**12 months:** Two GMS knowledge-sharing workshops on SEZs coordination and promotion to ease movement of goods and services



**12 months:** Have engagement sessions with the private sector when the Task Force meets



**12 months:** At least two awareness programs to be held at the business chambers and SMEs level



**15 months:** Prioritise resource management and other pressing issues related to the Mekong River Delta by improving the infrastructure around the area



**15 months:** Roll out of pilot for virtual marketplace for exporters



**15 months:** Collaboration with all stakeholders to establish a virtual and unified digital marketplace for exporters

**6**



**15 months:** Strengthen and explore partnerships and synergies with CBTA and the agriculture working groups include the expansion of corridor routes under the CBTA agreement, collecting Transport and Trade Facilitation database at the CBTA covered border crossing points



**18 months:** Monitor the implementation and whether the agenda item is evolving. To decide if it is necessary to establish a working group to continue to cooperation in trade and investment

# Proposed work plan 2023

Q1

## 2nd Task Force (TF) Meeting

- concept on consultation with other committees.
- exchange of information and challenges on digital trade/investment program.



## Consultation with

- Working Group on Agriculture (WGA),
- Cross-Border Transport Facilitation Agreement (CBTA).



Q2

## Consultation with

- WGA (continued),
- CBTA(continued),
- Private sector



## Convening of training #1



Q3

## Convening of training #2



## 3rd TF Meeting

- monitor progress,
- preliminarily discuss the work plan 2024 based on consultations.



Q4

## Convening of training #3



## Review

- circulation to GMS Task Force Members on the outcome of the consultations and the proposed work plan 2024.



# Proposed work plan 2024

Q1

## 4th TF Meeting

- adoption of the proposed work plan 2024 and the outline of Task Force Report.



Q2

## Convening of training #4



Q3

## Convening of training #5



## 5th TF Meeting

- consideration of the draft Task Force report



Q4

## Conclusion of Task Force activities

- finalization of the GMS Trade and Investment Task Force Report
- recommendations to GMS SOM and to MC or Summit



## Discussion points for consideration

- Trade and Investment Task Force Work Plan:
  1. Proposed Focus on “Digital Supply Chain”?
  2. Each country to identify top 3 priority policy measures (to be supplemented with the outcome of consultations with WGA, CBTA and Private Sector).
  3. Preliminary views on the proposed proforma work plan?
  4. Adoption of TI proforma work plan by end of November 2022.
- Task Force Reporting Process:
  5. Report of GMS Trade and Investment Task Force proforma work plan to GMS SOM by the end of 2022.
  6. Report of progress to GMS SOM (once a year) and to MC or Summit (in 2024).