



Building Digitally-Connected GMS Economic Corridors GMS Digital Economy Cooperation Initiative

2nd Meeting of the GMS Task Force on Trade and Investment
25 April 2023





Goal: Building Digitally-Connected GMS Economic Corridors

- **Background**
- **Objectives**
- **Cooperation Areas**
- **Next Steps**



I. Background

- The most important **driver** for innovation, competitiveness and economic growth; **key** to economic recovery and sustainable development.
- **Gaps** among GMS members in digital economy development
- ***GMS Strategic Framework 2030*** instructs to seize the good opportunities brought by the digital economy



II. Objectives and Cooperation Areas

1. Trade Facilitation
2. Digital Connectivity
3. Digital Technology Innovation
4. Digital Finance Development
5. Digital Inclusiveness
6. Digital Governance



II. Objectives and Cooperation Areas

1. Trade Facilitation

Carry out cooperation on areas such as “Single Window”, paperless clearance, E-invoice, E-payment, E-authentication, E-signature, Online payment, consumer protection etc, so as to streamline the trade procedures, reduce trade cost, and benefit more enterprises and consumers through trade digitization.

2. Digital Infrastructure

Identify a list of priority projects, and mobilize resources to support digital infrastructure construction on fibre broadband, backbone transmission network, data centre etc., with the aim to bridge the digital divide and improve the level of digital connectivity in the sub-region.



II. Objectives and Cooperation Areas

3. Digital Innovation

Promote the development of digital softwares; strengthen exchanges and cooperation in the emerging technologies fields; promote standard compatibility and mutual recognition in the digital field, with the aim to tap the potential of emerging technologies and cultivate new business models.

4. Digital Financial Cooperation

Encourage international and regional financial institutions to support major digital infrastructures via capital and financial public products such as strategic policies and innovative financing models, so as to provide financial resources for major digital infrastructures and close the digital divide along the corridors.



II. Objectives and Cooperation Areas

5. Digital Inclusion Projects

Create more opportunities for SMEs and women through more capacity building programs and technical assistances, to unleash the potential of digital technologies in alleviating poverty and improving the well-being of people in the sub-region.

6. Digital Governance System and Capabilities

Enhance cooperation and information sharing on laws, regulations, standards and policy measures, so as to foster an open, fair, and non-discriminatory digital environment for businesses.



III. Next Steps

1. **Research program** on "Promoting the GMS Digital Economy Development", to conduct an overall assessment of current status, including the opportunities and challenges of Digital Economy. Preferably some key digital infrastructure projects could be identified during the research program and be also included into GMS Regional Investment Framework later on.
2. More Cross-border digital trade and investment cooperation under the "**GMS Cross-border E-commerce Cooperation Platform**".



IV. Next Steps

3. Encourage **related GMS working groups (WG) and task forces (TF)** to start cooperation on digital economy. Each WG/TF could develop programs according to their functions.



THANK YOU!

