



GREATER MEKONG SUBREGION
CLIMATE CHANGE
AND ENVIRONMENTAL
SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAM



27th Annual Meeting of the Greater Mekong Subregion Working Group on Environment (GMS WGE AM-27)

31 October to 2 November 2023
(in-person and online)
Super Hotel Candle, Hanoi, Viet Nam
(Phoenix Ball room - 2nd Floor)

To join the Policy Dialogue online,
[click here to register in advance.](#)

A confirmation email will be sent once registered.

AGENDA

Background

The Ministers of Environment of countries in the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) endorsed a Strategic Framework and Action Plan for the Core Environment Programme in 2018. To support the implementation of the framework and action plan, ADB approved a technical assistance entitled “GMS Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability Program (CCESP)” in December 2019. The technical assistance is to be implemented for 5 years from April 2020 to March 2025 focusing on 6 themes: (i) climate and disaster resilience; (ii) low carbon transitions; (iii) climate smart transboundary landscapes; (iv) environmental quality management; (v) digital technologies for climate action and environmental sustainability; and (vi) innovative financing instruments. The 27th Annual Meeting of the GMS Working Group on Environment (WGE AM-27) will specifically focus on themes (ii) and (vi).

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) published a Synthesis Report in March 2023 outlining the need for sharing best practices and effective policy measures for facilitating low carbon transition and deploying technologies. Section 4 of the report, ‘Near- Term Responses in a Changing Climate’, assesses opportunities for scaling up effective action in the period up to 2040, in the context of climate pledges, and commitments, and the pursuit of sustainable development. In this context, the WGE AM-27 will discuss key challenges and possible solutions for the GMS for facilitating low carbon transitions in the green freight and agriculture sectors and for deploying innovative technologies for climate action and environmental sustainability.

Tackling climate change, building climate and disaster resilience, and enhancing environmental sustainability is one of the seven operational priorities in ADB's Strategy 2030. ADB aims to become climate bank of Asia and the Pacific by mobilizing climate finance of \$100 billion between 2019 and 2030, and by supporting innovative technologies for facilitating low carbon and climate resilient development in various sectors, including agriculture, transport, energy, health, urban development and tourism.

The need for urgent transformational change to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement has been highlighted in recent UNFCCC and IPCC reports. Scaling up the development and transfer of technologies in response to climate change is more crucial than ever. All GMS countries, in their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), stressed the need for deploying innovative technologies. While there are many technologies, this annual meeting focuses on prospects for deploying digital technologies (e.g., artificial intelligence, blockchain solutions, drone technologies and mobile phone-based solutions) in support of climate action and environmental sustainability. The IPCC Synthesis Report noted that the use of digital technologies in combination with design and process innovations led to near-commercial availability of many low or zero emissions options. The CCESP TA team prepared a report entitled “green technology needs assessment” which includes the prospects for deploying the above noted technologies in the GMS. The WGE-AM27 is expected to distill lessons from this report for promoting subregional cooperation in wider deployment of digital technologies for climate action and environmental sustainability.

Agriculture, Forestry and Land Use (AFOLU) and transport sectors, besides energy, are major contributors of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in all GMS countries. While there are many options to reduce GHG emissions in agriculture and freight subsector, progress to date has been limited. Further, there are significant barriers to implementation that must be overcome by policies shaped to meet the needs of different farmer groups and agricultural systems as well as stakeholders of the freight subsector. The CCESP TA team prepared policy briefs focusing on policies and measures, which are cost-effective, pro-poor and with better socio-economic, environmental and ecosystem benefits. The GMS WGE will discuss priorities for regional cooperation in transforming the agriculture and freight sectors to make them more climate friendly.

Objectives:

1. To share national priorities, strategies and road maps for deploying innovative and digital technological solutions and for facilitating low carbon transitions in the green freight and agriculture sectors.
2. To discuss and agree upon priority actions for regional cooperation.

Expected Outputs

1. An exchange of national priorities, strategies and road maps of the GMS countries for deploying innovative and digital technological solutions and for facilitating low carbon transitions in the transport and agricultural sectors.
2. A summary on priority actions for regional cooperation to enhance the use of digital technologies and facilitating low carbon transitions in the transport and agricultural sectors

Target Participants

1. GMS WGE representatives
2. Representatives from relevant national agencies responsible for climate technologies, and low carbon transitions in the transport and agricultural sectors
3. Academic institutions
4. Private sector representatives
5. Regional and international development partners
6. Community representatives, including youth and NGOs
7. ADB staff
8. Consultants

Tentative Agenda

Day 1 – Tuesday 31 October 2023 - Theme 5: Green Technologies

08:30–09:00	Registration (Physical and online)
09:00 - 09:45	<p>Opening remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof Nguyen Dinh Tho, Director General, ISPONRE, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Viet Nam • Dr. Jiangfeng Zhang, Director, East Asia, Southeast Asia, and the Pacific Team, Agriculture, Food, Nature, and Rural Development Sector Office, Sectors Group, ADB <p>Welcome and introduction to the program and WGE Annual Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Jens Christian Riise, TA-9915 Senior Consultant and Facilitator
09:45 – 10:15	<p>Session 1: Findings of the Green Technology Needs Assessment (GTNA)</p> <p>Speaker: Mr. Andy Brahney, TA-9915 Thematic Lead Theme 5 Digital Technologies</p>
10.15 - 10:45	Group photo and coffee break
10:45 – 12:00	<p>Session 2: National Priorities and Strategies on Technology Deployment for Climate Action and Environmental Sustainability</p> <p>Moderators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Jiangfeng Zhang, Director, SEER, ADB • Prof Nguyen Dinh Tho Director General, ISPONRE, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Viet Nam <p>Presentations by GMS country representatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Navann Ouk Deputy Director General General Directorate of Policy and Strategy, Ministry of Environment, Cambodia • Ms. Li Xiang, Project Officer, Foreign Environmental Cooperation Center, Ministry of Ecology and Environment, PRC • Ms. Daovinh SOUPHONPHACDY, Deputy Director of Policy Division, Department of Climate Change, MoNRE, Lao PDR • Dr. Fairda Malem, Department of Climate Change and Environment, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Thailand • Dr. Nguyễn Sỹ Linh, Head of Climate Change and Global Issues (ISPONRE); Viet Nam
12:00-13:00	Lunch Break
13:00-13:10	<p>Introduction to thematic sessions</p> <p>Mr. Andy Brahney, TA-9915 Thematic Lead Theme 5 Digital Technologies</p>

13:10-14:30	<p>Session 3: Blockchain-enabled climate action monitoring and Artificial Intelligence-enabled pollution monitoring</p> <p>Moderator: Dr. Kim Thị Thúy Ngọc, WGE Coordinator, ISPONRE, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Viet Nam</p> <p>Panel Members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Sakda Tridech, Director of the air quality and noise innovation subdivision, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Pollution Control Department, Thailand • Mr. Aekkapol Aekakkararungroj, Remote Sensing and AI Specialist, SERVIR-SEA, Thailand • Ms. Dechen Tsering, UNEP Regional Director and Representative of APAC, UNEP • Mr. Amr Shehata, Global Director of Data & Traceability, Plastic Bank, Canada • Mr. David Davies, Founder, AgUnity, Australia
14:30-15:00	Coffee Break
15:00-16:00	<p>Session 4: Drone-enabled sustainable forest management</p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Pham Thanh Nam, Project Manager, SNV, Viet Nam</p> <p>Panel Members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Chheang Dany, Deputy Director General, Forestry Administration, Cambodia • Dr. Hoang Viet Anh, GIS Product Developer, Tinh Van JSC, Viet Nam • Prof. Sithong Thammavong, Vice Dean of Faculty of Forestry, National University of Laos, Lao PDR • Mr. Jiansong Wang (TBC), CEO, Deep Nature, PRC
16:00-17:00	<p>Session 5: Mobile phone-based early warning systems – adaptation</p> <p>Moderator: Dr. Monica Petri, Project Coordinator, FAO</p> <p>Panel Members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Lukas Laube, Country Director, Relief and Development Department, People in Need Organization, Cambodia • Mr. Craig McVeigh, CEO of Similie, USA • Ms. Chinaporn Meechaiya, Water & Disasters Theme Lead, SERVIR-SEA, Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC)
17:00 – 17:20	<p>GMS Knowledge Network and Work Plan –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Antonio Ressano, Principal Regional Cooperation Specialist, Southeast Asia Department, ADB (Virtual)
17:20 – 17:30	Day 1 conclusion by Mr. Andy Brahney, TA-9915 Thematic Lead Theme 5 Digital technologies
18:00 –	Dinner co-hosted by WGE Viet Nam (ISPONRE)

Day 2 – Wednesday 1 November 2023 - Low-Carbon Transitions

08:30 – 09:00	Registration
9:00 - 9:10	Welcome and introduction to the agenda Dr. Srinivasan Ancha, Principal Climate Change Specialist, ADB
9:10 – 9:30	Session 6: Green Freight Policy Needs Assessment Speaker: Mr. Erik Hedman, TA-9915 Thematic Lead Theme 2 Low carbon transition
9:30– 10:45	Session 7: First mile transportation – Regional freight movements and cross-border collaboration Moderator: Dr. Wei-Shiuen Ng, UN ESCAP, Bangkok Panel Members: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Soutsada SYLISAK, Department of Railway, Ministry of Public Work and Transport, Lao PDR • Dr Piyanoote Sumrith, Chairman of the Thai Transport and Logistics Association, Thailand • Dr Nguyen Thi Phuong Hien, Deputy Director, Transport Development & Strategy Institute, Viet Nam • Mr. Sudhir Gota, Sustainable Development and Climate Change Department (SDCC), Asian Development Bank • Mr David Lantz, Director, Scania Southeast Asia
10:45 – 12:00	Session 8: Last-mile transportation – Accelerating towards green urban freight Moderator: Mr Hung Nguyen, The Business School, RMIT, Business Innovation, Viet Nam Panel Members: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Daniel Silavong, Department of Transport, Ministry of Public Work and Transport, Lao PDR • Prof Sathaporn Opananon, Department of International Business, Logistics and Transport, Thammasat Business School, Thailand • Mr Sandeep Raj Jain, Economic Affairs Officer, Transport Connectivity and Logistics Section, Transport Division, UNESCAP • Captain Aung Khin Myint, CEO Resources Group Logistics, Myanmar • Mr. Nguyen Bao Trung, CEO, Vinafco, Viet Nam
12:00-13:00	Lunch break
13:00 – 13:30	Session 9: Low carbon Agriculture Policy Needs Assessment Speaker: Mr. Jens Christian Riise, TA-9915 GMS CCESP Senior Consultant

13:30 – 14:45	<p>Session 10: Agricultural innovation, communication, and outreach on Low Carbon Agriculture</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderator: Dr. Bui Le Vinh, International Consultant for IIRR/ADB <p>Panel Members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. (Ms.) Latsamy Phounvisouk, Deputy Director of the Rural Agriculture Economic and Policy Research Center, National Agricultural and Forestry Research Institute, Vientiane, Lao PDR • Mr. Bittawat Wichaidist, Agricultural Research Officer, Thailand Rice Science Institute, Thailand • Dr. Thang Chu Manh, Senior Researcher in Animal Nutrition, National Institute of Animal Science, MARD, Viet Nam (TBC) • Mr. Bradley Kopsick, Country Director at Insitor, Myanmar/Cambodia • Mr. Nguyen Duc Truong, CEO, Dai Thanh Joint Stock Company, Viet Nam (private)
14:45 – 16:00	<p>Session 11: Financial products and carbon markets for Low Carbon Agriculture</p> <p>Moderator: Dr. Pitchaya Sirivunnabood, Consultant, ASEAN Green, Social, Sustainable, and other Labeled (GSS+) Bonds Initiative, Asian Development Bank</p> <p>Panel Members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Thay Jeudi, Director of Green Finance Department, Agricultural and Rural Development Bank (ARDB), Cambodia • Mr. Wichai Paksa, Director, Office of Foreign Affairs, Bank for Agriculture and Agricultural Cooperatives (BAAC), Thailand • Dr. Poonperm VARDHANABINDU, PHD, ESG Development Manager, Bureau Veritas Certification (Thailand) Ltd. • Dr. Sun Huaping, Professor, School of Economics & Management, University of Science and Technology, Beijing, PRC
16:00 – 16:30	Tea and Coffee Break
16:30 – 17:15	<p>Discussion priority actions for regional cooperation under the CCESP to enhance the use of digital technologies and innovative climate financing in the GMS</p> <p>Facilitator: Dr. Srinivasan Ancha, Principal Climate Change Specialist, ADB</p>
17:15 – 17:30	<p>Closing remarks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Dr. Jiangfeng Zhang, Director, East Asia, Southeast Asia, and the Pacific Team, Agriculture, Food, Nature, and Rural Development Sector Office, Sectors Group, ADB ○ Prof Nguyen Dinh Tho, Director General, ISPONRE, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE), Viet Nam (tbd)

Day 3 – Thursday 2 November 2023 - GMS CCESP workplan and GMS Environment Ministers’ Meeting

8:30 – 9:00	<p>Registration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WGE representatives • ADB • TA Team
9:00 – 9:10	<p>Welcome and introduction to the agenda Dr. Srinivasan Ancha, Principal Climate Change Specialist, ADB</p>
9:10 – 9:50	<p>Session 1: Presentation of overall CCESP workplan – focus on program outputs covering Knowledge Products, Meetings/Training Workshops and Demonstrations Mr. Jens Christian Riise, TA-9915 GMS CCESP Senior Consultant with support from TA Team Thematic leads</p>
9:50 – 10:30	<p>Discussion and Q&A session on workplan Moderator: Mr. Jens Christian Riise, TA-9915 GMS CCESP Senior Consultant</p>
10:30 – 10:45	<p>Coffee Break</p>
10:45 – 11:15	<p>Session 2: Arrangements for the 6th GMS Environment Ministers’ Meeting Dr. Srinivasan Ancha, Principal Climate Change Specialist, ADB</p>
11:15 – 11:30	<p>Approach and Methodology for GMS Strategy Preparation – Some insights from the GMS Secretariat Mr. Asadullah Sumbal, Principal Regional Cooperation Specialist, Southeast Asia Department, ADB (Virtual)</p>
11:30 – 11:40	<p>Wrap-up and Conclusion</p>
11:40 -	<p>Departure</p>