



GREATER MEKONG SUBREGION DIGITALIZATION ACTION PLAN (2025 - 2027)



GMS Development Partner's Meeting

5 November 2024

Kunming, Yunnan Province, PRC





GMS Digitalization Action Plan (2025-2027)



Consisting of:

- Definition of scopes and dimensions of digitalization
- Assessment of current context of digitalization in GMS countries
- Overview of ongoing global and regional cooperation initiatives
- Identification of entry points and activities for the GMS program

Based on the following elements:

- Selectivity: choose a few sectors and themes
- Manageability: activities easy to finance and implement
- Incrementality: start small and build from successful activities

Fully aligned with:

- GMS-2030
- GMS Digital Economy Cooperation Initiative
- GMS Innovation Strategy
- GMS sector strategies
- National digital strategies/plans
- Initiatives from regional organizations





Entry Points of Action Plan



For each sector, the Action Plan focuses on 5 main entry points that are essential in ensuring that digitalization continues to deliver both short-term and long-term outcomes for the region.



Entry Point I: Planning and Strategy – Regional plans, strategies, and roadmaps that allow GMS countries to collectively plan and coordinate efforts for common objectives, outcomes, and results.



Entry Point II: Training and Capacity-Building – Regional efforts that provide the skills and knowledge that are essential to design, implement, and sustain digital transformation across the value chain.



Entry Point III: Policy Dialogue and Cooperation – Regional initiatives that provide the exchange of information, and knowledge and best practices in terms of policymaking, including adjusting them to their capabilities.



Entry Point IV: Innovation and Piloting – Regional efforts to design, plan, launch, support, and sustain innovative pilot programs that have a transformative effect on the way sectors digitalize and function.



Entry Point V: Cross-cutting Activities – Regional activities and initiatives that can be undertaken or coordinated by the GMS Secretariat to facilitate the implementation of the Action Plan.





Priority Sector: Agriculture – Overview of Entry Points



Entry Point I: Planning & Strategy

Digitalization at the Top of GMS Agricultural Priorities

Regional plans, strategies, and roadmaps that allow GMS countries to collectively plan and coordinate efforts for common objectives, outcomes, and results.



Entry Point II: Training & Capacity-Building

Financial Inclusion Through Financial Literacy Training

Launch localized/targeted training programs on digital and financial literacy to enhance rural/agricultural populations' access to and usage of digital financing platforms and products (loans, insurance, accounts).



Entry Point III: Policy Dialogue & Cooperation

Events Around Interoperable Digital Traceability Standards

Launch roundtable events to discuss best practices and the way forward to make export/import digital standards more interoperable, enhancing the digital traceability of agricultural products across the GMS region.



Entry Point IV: Innovation & Piloting

GMS Traceability & Early Warning System

Develop and launch digital traceability pilot projects as part of a wider goal to establish a cross-border and collaborative digital warning system for agricultural authorities to communicate on multi-faceted risks (e.g. sanitary risks for crops/cattle, climate/environmental risks, etc.).





Priority Sector: Tourism – Overview of Entry Points



Entry Point I: Planning & Strategy

GMS Tourism Strategy 2030

Drive and support the implementation of the Digital Transformation pillar of the upcoming GMS Tourism Strategy 2030 (once completed in August 2024).



Entry Point II: Training & Capacity-Building

Train the Trainers

Work with regional knowledge and implementation partners (universities, think tanks, industry associations, private-sector entities) to develop digital capacity-building and training programs that can be replicated locally.



Entry Point III: Policy Dialogue & Cooperation

Cross-Border Interoperability

Launch cross-border dialogues/policy discussions on building cross-border linkages and interoperable digital systems (digital payments systems, QR codes for smart ticketing and information systems, etc.).



Entry Point IV: Innovation & Piloting

Digital platform facilitating tourism in the GMS region

Build a digital platform and/or mobile application to collate and consolidate a wide range of tourism-related solutions and services for visitors to GMS countries (major events, travel documents and requirements, travel restrictions, health/climate warnings, natural resources, sustainable options, accommodation, activities, local/regional attractions).





Priority Sector: Trade & Investment – Overview of Entry Points



Entry Point I: Planning & Strategy

GMS Digital Trade Strategy 2030

Support the implementation/operationalization of existing national plans and strategies for the digitalization of trade to find areas of convergence that may potentially become a comprehensive GMS Digital Trade Strategy to 2030.



Entry Point II: Training & Capacity-Building

Capacity-Building to Implement Digital Trade

Launch regional training events that focus on capacity-building for stakeholders and decision-makers in charge of the design and implementation of digital trade, including government agencies and trade industry groups.



Entry Point III: Policy Dialogue & Cooperation

Multi-stakeholder Coordination for Digital Trade

Launch a series of policy dialogue/knowledge-sharing events, to tackle pressing issues (harmonization of sanitary and phytosanitary standards, creating interconnected, transparent, and responsive supply chain ecosystems, facilitate the interoperability of paperless trade systems across the GMS, security of digital trade).



Entry Point IV: Innovation & Piloting

Integration of Advanced Technologies

Develop a digital platform compiling cross-border digital trade enablers (single window systems, e-payment, e-certifications, and paperless/e-invoicing measures) that are already in place across GMS economies; provide an interactive module for trade officials that identifies harmonization gaps in a comparative manner; accelerate digital transformation at border-crossing points by incorporating these systems.





Cross Cutting Activities - Entry Point V



Entry Point V: Cross-Cutting Activities

- **Statistical index for long-term monitoring of digitalization efforts.** Develop and launch a digitalization readiness assessment methodology that quantifies and tracks the progress made by GMS economies in their digitalization efforts, with a wide range of digitalization and integration indicators (including connectivity measures such as the speed, cost, and accessibility of internet infrastructure).
- **Institutional arrangements for long-term implementation and coordination.** Support the digitalization activities and initiatives launched by the upcoming Innovation Task Force, ensuring it has the mandate and the resources to: oversee and coordinate all digitalization endeavors across the GMS; and facilitate cooperation across national and regional focals, working groups, and other experts / stakeholders.
- **Internal coordination and external cooperation on major digitalization issues and challenges.** Launch a series of regularly scheduled events/dialogues to exchange knowledge and best practices with digitalization stakeholders, possibly in partnership with other multilateral organizations (with a focus on those that GMS economies are members of, such as ASEAN, APEC, AIIB, World Bank).





Implementation and Financing



Annual Reviews. The action plan is considered a “living document” and is to be reviewed on annual basis. This will be led by Innovation Task Force and the relevant sector/thematic working groups/task forces. Entry points and activities can be revised and refined. Further sectors will be added to the plan when considered timely.



Implementation Arrangements. GMS Secretariat will lead coordination of efforts to manage the plan. Innovation Task Force will provide main venue for discussing review and updating. Detailed implementation of activities is to be led by the sector/thematic working groups. Development Partners, can provide support to GMS Secretariat and GMS governments.



Financing. ADB has allocated some funds for initial activities of the action plan. Other development partners are invited to provide funds. Comprehensive dissemination is to be done through GMS institutional sessions with development partners and working groups meetings.





Thank you!





Guiding questions for discussion



1. What is your organization currently doing to promote digitalization in the GMS both at the national and subregional levels? And what are your key priorities in the next three years (2025-2027)?
2. How do you see your organization contributing to the implementation of the GMS Digitalization Action Plan? Are there any activities identified for the three sectors (agriculture, tourism, trade/investment) that would be relevant for your organization?

Interventions

DP: Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)

Country: Myanmar

Open discussion

Open floor for participants to reflect on the questions and share their insights and views over the topic

