



11th Meeting of the GMS Working Group on Human Resource Development (WGHRD-11)

ELEVENTH MEETING OF THE GMS WORKING GROUP ON HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (WGHRD-11)

1–2 November 2012, ParkRoyal Hotel, Yangon, Republic of the Union of Myanmar

THEME: The Greater Mekong Subregion HRD Strategic Framework and Action Plan (SFAP) 2013-2017: Responding to Emerging HRD Priorities

Summary of Proceedings

Introduction

1. The Eleventh Meeting of the GMS Working on Human Resource Development (WGHRD-11) was held in Yangon, Republic of the Union of Myanmar, on 1-2 November 2012, with the theme *“The GMS HRD Strategic Framework and Action Plan 2013-2017 (SFAP 2013-2017): Responding to Emerging HRD Priorities.”*

2. The Meeting was co-organized by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar (Myanmar), and attended by participants from the six GMS countries: Cambodia, People’s Republic of China (PRC), Lao People’s Democratic Republic (Lao PDR), Myanmar, Thailand, and Viet Nam. Resource speakers from the public and private sectors, and the academia, as well as observers from other development partners, and individual experts also attended. ADB provided secretariat support. The Program and Agenda and List of Participants are in Appendix 1 and 2, respectively.

Opening Session

3. Dr. Tin Tin Lay, Deputy Director General, Department of Medical Science, Ministry of Health (MOH), Myanmar, extended her warm welcome to all delegates from the GMS countries, development partners, and ADB team, which helped Myanmar host the WGHRD-11 meeting. She pointed out Myanmar’s participation in the GMS Program has provided a momentum to their national efforts at reducing poverty through regional cooperation. Although lending

operations by bilateral and multilateral donors were suspended until recently, Myanmar still benefited from GMS regional technical assistance through participation and exchange of knowledge with other GMS members in various high-level, sector working group, and project level meetings, including Myanmar's hosting of the 4th GMS Summit of Leaders in Nay Pyi Taw in December 2011 and the Fourth Economic Corridors Forum in Mandalay in June 2012. In HRD, Myanmar has participated in regional activities related to communicable disease control, training programs and knowledge-sharing activities of the GMS Phnom Penh Plan for Development Management, and the GMS Working Group Meetings on HRD. Dr. Lay stressed that in light of Myanmar's opening up to greater flows of trade, investment and tourism, they would need to double their efforts to strengthen their public institutions and build our human capital to meet the development challenges.

4. Mr. Putu Kamayana, Head, Extended Mission in Myanmar noted in his opening address, that the WGHRD-11 comes at an auspicious time in the context of historic and rapid changes that have accompanied Myanmar's emergence from a long period of political and economic isolation. He stressed the importance of the Working Group's role in the GMS Program because HRD is a key sector of the GMS Economic Cooperation Program. The new GMS Strategic Framework (GMS SF) maintains the overall vision and goals that currently guide the GMS Program towards a more integrated, prosperous, and equitable GMS. Among the key sector and multisector priorities of the GMS Program for the next decade is "supporting HRD initiatives that facilitate the process of GMS integration while addressing any negative consequences of greater integration." He congratulated the working group for the substantial achievements made on a range of HRD projects and activities. Mr. Kamayana underscored ADB's partnership with the GMS Program in the past decade and looks forward to continued productive partnership with all concerned stakeholders towards implementing the SFAP 2013-2017 and in mobilizing much-needed investments and technical assistance for the long-term benefit of the subregion and its peoples.

5. Ms. Leah C. Gutierrez, Director, Human and Social Development Division, Southeast Asia Department, ADB, also stated that the Meeting is timely and is a milestone event as this year marks the winding down of the GMS HRD Strategic Framework and Action Plan for 2009-2012. This is also the first meeting of the working group following the formal adoption by the GMS Leaders at their 4th Summit in December last year of the new ten-year GMS SF for 2012-2022. She stressed that the new GMS SF is anchored on the economic corridor approach and

emphasizes the need to broaden and deepen the corridors by ensuring that benefits are spread extensively along and around the corridors, such as through the development of border and corridor towns, the establishment of feeder roads and integrated area development, as well as paying greater attention to inter-sector linkages and multi-sector aspects of corridor development. This will include increased focus on social and human resource concerns, including ensuring the smooth but properly regulated cross-border movements of people and promoting food and energy security, and appropriately addressing climate change concerns. The new GMS SF, therefore, recognizes that while the GMS Program has had considerable success in fostering physical connectivity through regional infrastructure development, there is now a need to more substantially and effectively address the soft issues that are becoming increasingly important, such as those concerning the environment, health, education and capacity building, and labor migration. Welcome and opening remarks are in Appendix 3.

6. Dr. Soe Lwin Nyein, Professor/Director (Epidemiology), Department of Health, MOH, Myanmar and Ms. Leah C. Gutierrez, ADB, chaired and co-chaired the Meeting, respectively. Mr. Joel Mangahas, Education Specialist, Human and Social Development Division, Southeast Asia Department, ADB, served as Master of Ceremonies.

7. The Meeting was held in plenary and break-out group sessions.

Statements by Heads of Delegation

8. The Heads of Delegation of each GMS country delivered brief statements highlighting key achievements, issues, and emerging challenges in subregional HRD cooperation.

Cambodia

9. Mr. Tep Oeun, Deputy Director General of Directorate General of Technical Vocational Education and Training, Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training, presented Cambodia's achievements in labor migration, health, and social development. He announced the formulation of a sub-decree on sending Cambodian workers abroad in 2011, the development of capacity building in disease surveillance, response, outbreak investigation and control, and HIV prevention in economic corridors. Strategic priorities in Cambodia include skills recognition for cross-border labor migrants, creation of employment opportunities, and education on safe

migration for cross-border skilled and unskilled labor migrants, development of legislations for communicable disease control, promotion of access to HIV/AIDS prevention, prevention of child labor and human trafficking, and strengthening higher education and research.

PRC

10. Ms. Nan Yang, Deputy Section Chief, International Department, Ministry of Finance, PRC reported the country's achievements in health, education, and immigration control. In health, PRC initiated the cross-border communicable disease prevention programs in Guanxi and Yunnan provinces, including malaria, dengue fever, HIV/AIDS, and tuberculosis. In education, PRC extended a total of 3,457 government scholarship to GMS countries. PRC stated that the WGHRD is a great platform for dialogue, exchange and cooperation. PRC's subregional HRD priorities are to improve current cross-border health programs, increase scholarship grants, and expand labor migration opportunities.

Lao PDR

11. Mr. Chanthachith Amphaychith, Deputy Secretary General, Lao National Mekong Committee Secretariat, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment discussed Lao PDR's significant achievements in the health and education sectors, including improvements to the national health system and labor management. The country emphasized the importance of HRD in advancing economic development and reducing poverty placing priorities on continued education reform policies, health insurance, HIV/AIDS prevention, and skilled labor exchange among GMS countries.

Myanmar

12. Dr. Soe Lwin Nyein, Professor/Director (Epidemiology), Department of Health, MOH, reported Myanmar's progress made in expanding access to education in border areas, skills training, higher education, and health services, including prevention of communicable diseases. The country's main HRD priorities are enhancing quality of higher education, safe migration and elimination of human trafficking, labor migration policy and management system, and promoting information and knowledge sharing. Myanmar expressed appreciation that the SFAP 2013-2017 reflects Myanmar's eligibility to participate in all new projects.

Thailand

13. Ms. Jittkasem Tantasiri, Director, Thai Cooperation Branch 1, Thailand International Development Cooperation Agency confirmed Thailand's commitment to combat human trafficking, empower women, prevent HIV/AIDS at cross-border areas, bilateral HRD assistance program that provided more than 1,000 scholarships and training in 2011. For its priorities, Thailand suggested to promote "ownership" of the Action Plan among countries and focus on cooperation on cross cutting issues. Furthermore, Thailand recommended for Phnom Penh Plan to respond to the changing training needs along the economic corridors, intensify cooperation on anti-human trafficking, skills development, and cooperation in education toward the ASEAN Community in 2015.

Viet Nam

14. Mr. Hung Cuong Duong, Official of Foreign Economic Relation Department, discussed its efforts to combat HIV/AIDS with the enactment in May 2012 of the new National Strategy on HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control to 2020. In education, Viet Nam announced the implementation of the Viet Nam Human Resource Development Strategy, 2011-2020, with a goal to increase trained manpower from 40% in 2010, 55% in 2015, and 70% in 2020. In labor and migration, various vocational trainings were conducted, and the Law of Human Trafficking Prevention was formulated in 2011. Viet Nam proposed to enhance regional cooperation on international migration in the GMS countries, improve sharing experiences in GMS on labor and migration issues, and improve access of vulnerable groups to basic social services. Country Statements are in Appendix 4.

Session 1: The GMS Strategic Framework and Action Plan: Review of Implementation of SFAP 2009-2012

15. Mr. James Knowles, HRD Strategy and Program Development Specialist (Consultant), ADB, provided a review of implementation of the GMS HRD SFAP 2009-2012. He presented an overview of the achievements in term of outputs and outcomes. The review emphasized that important initiatives have been implemented in all five strategic thrusts: (i) education and skills development, (ii) safe labor migration, (iii) communicable disease control (CDC), (iv) social

development, and (v) HRD program strengthening. The Action Plan 2009-2012 has been effectively implemented for three of the five strategic thrusts (i.e., promoting regional cooperation in education and skills development, strengthening communicable disease control, and enhancing regional cooperation for social development). More progress was made on initiatives closely related to large, ongoing ADB projects while less progress was made on initiatives requiring multi-sectoral cooperation (e.g., safe labor migration, food and drug control). The review found that (i) a new approach is needed for initiatives that require effective multi-sectoral cooperation; (ii) strategic partners should become more involved in the program, not only as funders but also in managing initiatives in some areas; and (iii) more attention needs to be given to monitoring the progress of SFAP implementation, particularly at the national level. Presentation is in Appendix 5.

Discussion:

16. The findings of the review of the SFAP 2009-2012 show how outputs have been achieved and how crucial these activities need to be implemented. It was suggested that the review of SFAP 2009-2012 could utilize country data and consider the participation of local/national partners. The review could have also provided a deeper analysis of issues, including the effectiveness of projects and how countries have benefited from these projects. It was recommended that projects should be matched with national policies to ensure that such projects are institutionalized. Furthermore, based on the review, it was also suggested to advise the countries on what areas they could focus on. The Working Group requested for continued support from ADB to address the remaining issues and challenges in HRD in the GMS.

Session 2: GMS Initiatives and Opportunities for Regional Cooperation

17. The sessions featured panel discussions by invited resource persons on major GMS HRD initiatives, challenges, and opportunities for subregional cooperation.

- (i) Joint Action Plan on the GMS Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for Joint Action to Reduce HIV Vulnerability Associated with Population Movement**

18. Following the signing of the GMS MOU for Joint Action to Reduce HIV Vulnerability Associated with Population Movement during the 4th GMS Summit, a draft Joint Action Plan (JAP) was prepared to identify the priority areas of collaboration among the countries. The MOU aims to reduce HIV vulnerability and promote access to prevention, treatment, care and support among migrants and mobile population and affected communities in countries in the GMS. The areas of collaboration are (i) promotion of improving policy environment and enabling mechanisms, (ii) promotion of community-based strategies that reduce HIV vulnerability, (iii) promotion of access to HIV and AIDS prevention, treatment, care and support, and (iv) strengthening of regional knowledge production and sharing mechanisms. The JAP is for endorsement of the WGHRD-11. Presentation is in Appendix 6.

Discussion:

19. WGHRD served as platform to discuss key issues affecting the countries and get solutions to address these collectively. While the process on renewing and approving the MOU was long, it was meaningful in terms of getting concurrence during the consultation. The success in moving forward the MOU to the JAP is owing to the country ownership and the multisectoral collaboration to obtain agreement of all groups. With regards to the MOU implementation, it was suggested to have one monitoring and evaluation framework to closely monitor its implementation.

(ii) GMS Higher Education Harmonization and Networking

20. ASEAN University Network (AUN) presented initiatives in strengthening the capacity of university quality assurance (QA) system, and Southeast Ministers of Education Organization-Regional Center for Higher Education and Development (SEAMEO-RIHED) discussed initial findings of a policy action research for harmonizing credit transfer arrangements in GMS countries. AUN and SEAMEO-RIHED proposed activities to support GMS higher education harmonization and networking during 2013-2017. Presentations are in Appendix 7.

21. The AUN-QA project aims to (i) enhance and strengthen the knowledge on QA system implementation and management particularly based on AUN-QA system, (ii) build up qualified university QA personnel team in Cambodia, Lao PDR, and Myanmar, (iii) establish QA system to leverage the quality of education management in CLM countries, and (iv) assist University QA

personnel team to conduct and prepare Self-Assessment Report (SAR). To date, the project reported the following: (i) in Lao PDR, 32 trainees from 2 universities, National University of Laos and University of Health Sciences, attended the first training workshop; (ii) in Cambodia, 26 trainees from 5 universities and Accreditation Committee of Cambodia, attended the first training workshop; (iii) in Myanmar, 30 trainees from 7 universities attended the first training workshop; and (iv) most of the trainees from the first training have submitted the self-assessment report.

22. On building a common transfer credit system, the action research comprised four phases: (i) explore, (ii) experiment, (iii) experience, and (iv) expand. The objectives of the ongoing phase 1 of the project are to (i) compare credit transfer systems (CTS) worldwide; (ii) assess existing CTS in the region; (iii) describe stakeholders' perceptions on CTS, e.g., effectiveness, accessibility, etc. in the region; and (iv) propose a CTS scheme fit for GMS and beyond GMS.

Discussion:

23. The QA and CTS are fundamental tools to promote harmonization and networking in higher education. A harmonized CTS will allow the smooth transfer of credit for courses taken outside the country and will provide opportunities for mobility of students and teachers in the region. For QA, the importance of both internal and external QA systems was stressed as they provide mechanisms to ensure the quality of higher education. In health, it was noted that the quality of health education vary from one country to another. It was suggested to create core competency for health workers to enable them to work in other countries.

(iii) Public Private Partnership (PPP) in Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET)

24. Skills development is increasingly seen as a key contributor to economic growth with impact on innovation and productivity. Some of the challenges in TVET include: (i) poor perception of TVET; (ii) high cost of TVET delivery; (iii) weak link between formal and informal TVET; and (iv) low private and public sector investment in TVET, among others. The private sector can be involved in financing and delivering TVET, including providing training services, financing of training facilities and equipment, TVET teacher development, and curriculum and

program development. The private sector's role can be seen as one of complementing the government's role of developing a common policy and regulatory framework. Presentation is in Appendix 8.

Discussion:

25. TVET is faced with a problem of poor perception as reflected in low percentage of firms having to do with TVET. Even with the poor perception, there are advantages of TVET, thus, the challenge is how to make TVET more relevant and improve its quality. Given limited resources for TVET, countries need to ensure that these resources have to be carefully spent to deliver maximum results. It was suggested to take advantage of the opportunity to mobilize resources from the private sector taking into account different modalities, such as cost sharing, not only the government providing support but also the private sector providing support.

(iv) Towards a Regional Framework for Labor Migration Cooperation in the GMS

26. The main issues related to labor migration in the GMS are (i) preparedness to economic integration in the framework of ASEAN Economic Community, (ii) irregular migration should be curbed by creating an environment in which regularization is sustainable to migrants, (iii) rights and protection of migrant workers are not yet ensured, (iv) the feminization of migration should be mainstreamed into migration policies in order not to increase the vulnerability of women and children, (v) lack of knowledge regarding labor migration. To address these challenges, the following recommendations were proposed: (i) increasing protection mechanisms for migrants in cross-border settings, (ii) strengthening capacity and legal framework in managing labor migration, (iii) enhancing social protection for migrants and their families, (iv) promoting ethical recruitment and employment, (v) strengthening return and reintegration support to migrants, (vi) increasing knowledge management mechanisms, and (vii) promoting effective use of remittances. Presentation is in Appendix 9.

Discussion:

27. The need to address social dimensions of labor migration was stressed. It was suggested to consider strategies to address the above labor migration issues at the GMS or

regional level through a coordinated policy approach and integrate these into national development agendas.

(v) Regional Health Challenges in a Changing Global Landscape

28. Health indicators have been improving, i.e. reduction of child mortality rates due to improved public health and increased life expectancy. However, with newly emerging diseases, there is a need to strengthen surveillance and response systems. Some of the health sector priorities in the region are: (i) universal access to basic quality care; (ii) universal health coverage; (iii) increased public health financing; (iv) increased Government effort in sector monitoring and reform; and (v) increased research and development. For GMS countries, support focused on (i) communicable disease control; and (ii) provincial staff and village capacity training. Future GMS health priorities could consider: (i) political priority; (ii) national and regional relevance; (iii) risks and possible health impact; (iv) indirect benefits; (v) solutions and feasibility of implementation; and (vi) available funding. Presentation is in Appendix 10.

Discussion:

29. The changing global landscape and limited resources calls for to the important role of the private sector in health service delivery. The challenge is how to leverage private sector participation in providing health services in the region. Some of the challenges in the health sector are: (i) there is still little effort to do prevention; (ii) proliferation of fake or substandard drugs; (iii) lack of incentives for big pharmaceuticals to develop drugs for communicable diseases; (iv) the effect of elderly chronic diseases; and (v) limited efforts to treat both communicable and non-communicable diseases. The group requested ADB's support to continue addressing communicable diseases in the region.

Session 3: The GMS HRD Strategic Framework and Action Plan 2013-2017 (SFAP 2013-2017)

30. The SFAP 2013-2017 maintains key elements of the SFAP 2009-2012 and has been updated to reflect important new developments, for example, ASEAN's commitment to develop economic and socio-cultural communities from the year 2015. Three of the seven strategic thrusts are in the broader education and training sector, reflecting the emerging priorities of the

GMS countries as articulated during the country consultations. Several of the strategic thrusts are designed to facilitate the mobility of skilled labor in the GMS, consistent with the stated goal of the ASEAN Economic Community to permit the free flow of skilled labor across borders. For example, initiatives under “cooperation in technical and vocational education and training” (ST #2) will develop skills recognition frameworks to facilitate the cross-border employment of skilled labor, while the assistance provided to TVET institutions will help provide them with the capacity to produce graduates with the necessary skills. Initiatives under cooperation in “higher education and research” (ST #3) will support the cross-border mobility of students, helping to prepare them for future cross-border employment. The initiative to improve migrants’ access to basic social services under “facilitating safe labor migration” (ST #5) will also facilitate the safe migration of both skilled and unskilled workers, as well as helping to “address regional health issues” (ST #4). Most initiatives in the first six strategic thrusts are also designed to support the development of the GMS economic corridors. The SFAP 2013-2017 was developed in consultation with GMS countries and development partners taking into account the review of the SFAP 2009-2012. Presentation is in Appendix 11.

Discussion:

31. The countries expressed their appreciation to ADB for the preparation of the SFAP 2013-2017 and support the proposed seven strategic thrusts. Countries recognized that HRD has long-term goals requiring long-term solutions with support from ADB and various development partners. The working group highlighted several suggestions for consideration as the SFAP 2013-2017 is finalized and will be implemented by: (i) strengthening the capacity of government officials, particularly in providing long-term degree education; (ii) enhancing skills of labor and addressing the issue on illegal workers; (iii) having a plan to mitigate communicable diseases; (iv) closely coordinating with all sectors given the cross-cutting issues in HRD; (v) identifying a number of flagship projects; and (vi) establishing a knowledge sharing platform in the region. Finally, it was emphasized that the Action Plan 2013-2017 is an evolving document that will consider changes in the activities as new priorities emerged.

Session 4: Subgroup Meetings

32. Simultaneous subgroup meetings for (i) Education, (ii) Health, and (iii) Labor Migration were held to discuss the Action Plan which specifies the proposed activities for implementation

in SFAP 2013-2017. Rapporteurs presented the respective subgroup reports. Detailed reports are in Appendices 12 to 16, respectively.

(i) Education

33. Two groups in the education subgroup met separately: (i) technical and vocational education and training (TVET) group and (ii) higher education group.

34. The TVET group raised the question on modality of implementation if the International Labour Organization (ILO) is proposed to take a lead in implementing TVET activities, subject to further discussions between ILO and ADB, which will be on developing and implementing skills recognition frameworks. The group proposed the following: (i) there is a need to look into a different approach in implementing the next set of 3-4 skills standards which are proposed in phase 2; (ii) participation of Cambodia and Myanmar; (iii) consideration of the economic corridors in identifying skills standards; (iv) consideration of ASEAN free movement of skilled labor from 2015; and (v) need for advocacy and knowledge led implementation.

35. With regards to strengthening TVET, particularly for teacher training standards, it is proposed to use same skill areas as skills recognition taking into account the economic corridors, possibly consider the South-South Cooperation. On quality assurance (QA), there is a need to consider the development of QA system and suggest to look into Australia's model, link with UNESCO's work, and identify institutions and countries involved in QA. On public-private partnership (PPP) in TVET, PPP approaches can (i) consider concession type models, (ii) identify possible projects, and institutes/partners, (iii) collaborate with the best private institutions and (iv) build capacity of TVET institutions.

36. The higher education group agreed in principle with Action Plan related to ST1: Capacity Development in the Economic Corridors, ST3: Cooperation in Higher Education and Research, and ST 7: Strengthening Institutions & Mechanisms for GMS HRD Cooperation. The subgroup proposed some modifications of the project descriptions and indicative time frame in the ST3 as follows: (i) GMS HE Harmonization and Networking (Phase 2): include both internal QA and external QA in GMS countries in collaboration with AUN and other regional organizations; (ii) Cooperation and Development in Higher Education in the Economic Corridor: (a) the indicative time frame of the PPTA should be changed to 2013-2014, and approval in 2014; (b) selected

universities in the Economic Corridors to participate in the Project; and (iii) support the establishment of a GMS knowledge platform: (a) web-based platform to be established by PRC to serve as gateway for exchanging and sharing regional knowledge, experiences and lessons learned for the purposes of identifying medium to long-term common research agenda and (b) identify 2-3 priority research work to be conducted by GMS countries.

(ii) Health

37. On the review of the SFAP 2009-2012, the subgroup stressed that there is still need to maintain Millennium Development Goals after 2015, particularly in CDC. The achievements in CDC 2 need to be sustained and CDC3 needs to be considered. Furthermore, the subgroup indicated that there is a need for more regional capacity building in surveillance and outbreak response. On the SFAP 2013-2017, the subgroup recommended the following: (i) there is need to reflect CDC beyond cross-border activity, and (ii) include WHO and FAO as partners. On the Action Plan, the subgroup indicated its preference for one large project like CDC rather than small projects given processing complexity and (ii) proposed funding for regional surveillance and outbreak response strategy; (iii) include additional programs: (a) food and drug safety, (b) multisectoral cooperation in CDC3, (c) include migrant worker in “Universal Health Care Coverage”, (d) include climate change and health, and (e) health impact assessment focusing on regional and national issues. Finally, the subgroup may consider updating GMS health strategy.

(iii) Labor and Migration

38. The subgroup met in two groups: (i) labor and migration and (ii) HIV and infrastructure. The group on labor migration reviewed the activities on ST#5: facilitating safe cross-border labor migration and ST# 6: mitigating social costs in the economic corridor.

39. The labor and migration group identified the detailed activities, including timeline in implementing ST #5, particularly, (i) protecting the rights of cross-border migrants, (ii) improving labor migration management in the GMS, and (iii) enhancing social protection for migrant workers in the GMS.

40. The group on HIV and infrastructure discussed the JAP for 2012-21, an accompanying document of the GMS MOU to Reduce HIV Vulnerability Associated with Population Movement. The JAP identifies priority areas for bilateral or multilateral collaboration. The MOU has the following areas of collaboration among the six GMS countries: (i) promoting enabling environment and mechanisms; (ii) promoting community-based strategies that reduce HIV vulnerability; (iii) promoting access to HIV and AIDS prevention, treatment, care and support; and (iv) developing a monitoring and evaluation framework.

Session 5: Statements by Development Partners

41. Representatives of development partners shared their ideas and insights on how they could contribute to effectively advance the HRD agenda in the GMS and enhance knowledge sharing among the countries, and indicated their respective areas of interests for collaborative partnerships. Statements by development partners are in Appendices 17 to 21, respectively.

(i) International Labour Organization (ILO)

42. ILO has been advising and supporting its Member States in the GMS, within the framework of its Decent Work Agenda, working with governments, workers and employers organizations and partners. ILO noted that the SFAP 2013-2017 appropriately falls within the Decent Work key pillars of promoting decent and productive employment; and ensuring that the workers are adequately protected in their workplaces. ILO has always valued sub regional cooperation through a wide range of opportunities implemented through: (i) knowledge sharing (ILO's Knowledge Sharing Platform) for easy access to recent knowledge products, expertise services and tools; and sharing of good practices and lessons learned; and (ii) direct action: technical guidance, policy advise; capacity building and implementing specific strategic actions and activities. ILO's programs which address the strategic thrusts of the GMS include (i) cooperation in technical and vocational education and training; (ii) mitigating social health issues; and (iii) facilitating safe and cross border labor migration. ILO recommended strengthened collaboration by ADB in countries and with development partners to ensure better complementarity and avoid overlaps in program implementation.

(ii) International Organization for Migration (IOM)

43. IOM stressed that it remains strongly engaged in providing support to migration issues through partnerships with the governments of the six countries of the GMS. Where possible, IOM develops regional solutions to address cross-border issues to assist and protect vulnerable migrants and promote humane and orderly migration for the benefit of all. However, IOM pointed out existing and new migration challenges, such as risks of trafficking and exploitation, climate change, changing demographics and rural to urban population movements which need to be addressed to fulfil the potential for HRD development. IOM seeks to broaden its engagement across these areas of focus, particularly in areas where it can address cross-border HRD concerns resulting from sub-regional integration. The SFAP 2013-2017 provides a useful starting point to guide the development of human resources in the sub-region. The IOM is committed to support government counterparts in recognizing the importance of building regional solutions to improve the human resource capacity of government officials and in turn the welfare of migrants who are the collective responsibility of all.

(iii) Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO) Secretariat

44. SEAMEO is an international organization established in 1965 among governments of Southeast Asian countries to promote regional cooperation in education, science and culture in Southeast Asia. The SEAMEO has 20 Regional Centers that undertake training and research programs in various fields of education (12 centers) science (6 centers), and culture (2 centers). Each Regional Centre has a Governing Board composed of senior education officials from each SEAMEO Member Country. SEAMEO Secretariat discussed the areas of possible collaboration on the implementation of the SFAP 2013-2017, particularly in capacity building, higher education and research, technical and vocational education, and health.

(iv) United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Joint Initiative on Mobility and HIV/AIDS (JUNIMA)

45. According to UNDP/JUNIMA, there are a range of challenges in providing HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, care and support services to cross-border labor migrants, including, (i) policies on access for migrant workers, (ii) sensitivity and suitability of service provision, (iii) differences in antiretroviral therapy treatment regimens, and (iv) very fluid mobility. UNDP and JUNIMA indicated their support in advancing the HRD agenda. UNDP and JUNIMA cited that they have the technical expertise as they have been working on mobility and HIV in the region

for over a decade and they know how to reach the experts on highly specialized issues, such as access to anti-retroviral treatment for migrants across cross-borders. JUNIMA, because of its unique position, can bring together governments, civil society organization, UN family, as it has convening power to bring the key actors. JUNIMA and UNDP also pointed out that they have a strong secretariat that will respond to the four areas of collaboration: (i) policy environment, (ii) community based strategies, (iii) access to HIV prevention, treatment care, and support, and (iv) monitoring and evaluation. It was further stressed that by 2015 ASEAN becomes one community, and this is specially going to be critical given the porous borders that are shared.

(v) United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

46. UNESCO and GMS countries have a long-standing collaboration in several areas covered by the SFAP, particularly in education, notably higher education and TVET, as well as in HIV/AIDS prevention. UNESCO is ready to further discuss with ADB the expanded collaboration in each of the countries in the GMS and at regional level. In a context of global reduction of development aid, development partners, in particular intergovernmental ones, indeed need to coordinate their support, based on their comparative advantages. As the UN Agency with mandate in education, sciences, culture, communication and information, UNESCO has tentatively identified a few potential areas at sub regional or national level where collaboration is feasible and in the context of the GMS HRD, including: (i) capacity development in the economic corridors: (ii) technical and vocational education and training, and (iii) cooperation in higher education and research.

Session 6: Closing Session

WGHRD-11 Deliverables and Inputs for GMS 18th Ministerial Conference in December 2012

47. The WGHRD-11 succeeded in achieving its objective in obtaining the working group's endorsement of the (i) Draft GMS HRD Strategic Framework and Action Plan (SFAP), 2013-2017 and (ii) Joint Action Plan for 2012-2014 of the MOU for Joint Action to Reduce HIV Vulnerability Associated with Population Movement, for submission to the 18th GMS Ministerial Conference in December 2012. With regards to the Draft GMS HRD SFAP 2013-2017, some

modifications on the Action Plan will be incorporated as discussed. It was emphasized the Action Plan is an evolving document which will reflect changes and updates as needed.

Concluding Remarks

48. Dr. Soe Lwin Nyein, Myanmar, expressed his appreciation to the Working Group for successful achievement of the objective of the meeting, that is, unanimously endorsing the draft GMS HRD SFAP for 2013-2017, for eventual endorsement by the GMS Ministers at their 18th Conference in December 2012 and endorsing the Joint Action Plan to implement the MOU for Joint Action to Reduce HIV Vulnerability Associated with Population Movement which GMS Leaders signed at their Fourth Summit last year. These are milestone developments that provide the guideposts for our cooperation over the next several years. He thanked all the resource persons, the delegates from the GMS countries, and the representatives of development partners for their active participation and contribution to the discussions. He also expressed his thanks to the ADB secretariat team for their invaluable support, dedication, and hard work which helped ensure the success of the working group meeting.

Concluding remark is in Appendix 22.

APPENDIX 1: PROGRAM AND AGENDA

THEME: The GMS HRD Strategic Framework and Action Plan (SFAP) 2013-2017: Responding to Emerging HRD Priorities

Objectives of the Meeting:

To present the draft GMS HRD Strategic Framework and Action Plan (SFAP) 2013-2017 for consideration and endorsement of the Working Group on Human Resource Development (WGHRD). The SFAP 2013-2017 builds upon the achievements under SFAP 2009-2012 and responds to emerging HRD priorities in the GMS.

DAY 1: Thursday, 1 November 2012 (Yadanar Grand Ballroom, Ground Level)

MORNING SESSION

0830–0900 **Registration**

Opening Session

0900–0920 **Welcome and Opening Remarks**

- **Welcome Remarks by the Republic of the Union of Myanmar**

Daw Tin Tin Lay
Deputy Director General
Department of Health
Ministry of Health

- **Opening Statement by Asian Development Bank (ADB)**

Mr. Putu Kamayana
Head, Extended Mission in Myanmar, ADB

Ms. Leah C. Gutierrez
Director, Human and Social Development Division
Southeast Asia Department, ADB

0920–1020 **Statements by Heads of Delegation**

- Cambodia
- People's Republic of China
- Lao PDR
- Republic of the Union of Myanmar
- Thailand
- Viet Nam

The Heads of Delegation of each GMS country (country focal point for WGHRD) will deliver a 10-minute statement, articulating their insights and perspectives on the strategic thrusts of the GMS HRD Strategic Framework and Action Plan (SFAP) 2013-2017.

- 1020–1050 *Group Photo and Coffee Break*
- 1050–1130 **Session 1: The GMS Strategic Framework and Action Plan (SFAP): Review of SFAP Implementation 2009-2012**
- (Mr. James Knowles, HRD Strategy and Program Development Specialist [Consultant], ADB)
- Mr. Knowles will discuss the review of implementation of the GMS HRD SFAP 2009-2012, including policies, programs, lessons learned, and emerging priorities for HRD cooperation in the GMS.*
- 1130–1200 **Discussion**
- Country Chair: Dr. Soe Lwin Nyein, Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Facilitator: Mr. Yasushi Hirosato, ADB
- 1200–1320 *Lunch (La Brasserie Restaurant, Ground Level)*
- AFTERNOON SESSION**
- 1320–1700 **Session 2: GMS Initiatives and Opportunities for Regional Cooperation**
- 1320–1340 **(iv) Joint Action Plan on the GMS MOU for Joint Action to Reduce HIV Vulnerability Associated with Population Movement**
- (Mr. Bounpheng Philavong, Director, Center for HIV/AIDS and STIs, Lao PDR)
- Following the signing of the GMS MOU for Joint Action to Reduce HIV Vulnerability Associated with Population Movement during the 4th GMS Summit, a draft Joint Action Plan (JAP) was prepared to identify the priority areas of collaboration among the countries. Mr. Philavong will present the activities to be implemented in the draft JAP for 2012-2014 for endorsement by WGHRD-11.*
- 1340–1400 **Discussion**
- Country Chair: Mr. Surasak Thanaisawanyangkoon, Thailand
Facilitator: Ms. Emiko Masaki, ADB
- 1400–1420 **(v) GMS Higher Education Harmonization and Networking**
- (Mr. Korn Ratanagosoom, Programme Officer, ASEAN University Network [AUN], and Ms. Sauwakon Ratanawijitrasin, Director, Southeast Asian Ministers for Education Organization Regional Center for Higher Education and Development [SEAMEO-RIHED])
- Mr. Ratanagosoom will present initiatives in strengthening the capacity of university quality assurance system. Ms. Ratanawijitrasin will present initial findings of a policy action research for harmonizing credit transfer arrangements in GMS countries. AUN*

and SEAMEO-RIHED will propose activities to support GMS higher education harmonization and networking for 2013-2017.

1420–1440

Discussion

Country Chair: H. E. Mak Ngoy, Cambodia

Facilitator: Mr. Yasushi Hirosato, ADB

1440–1500

(iii) Public Private Partnership (PPP) in Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET)

(Mr. Norman LaRocque, Senior Education Specialist, Human and Social Development Division, Southeast Asia Department, ADB)

The project on PPP in TVET will focus on at least three TVET institutions in selected locations along the economic corridors in such fields as tourism and health care. Mr. LaRocque will provide an overview of ways in which the private sector can be involved in financing and delivering TVET, including providing training services, financing of training facilities and equipment, TVET teacher development, and curriculum and program development. The private sector's role can be seen as one of complementing the government's role of developing a common policy and regulatory framework.

1500–1520

Discussion

Country Chair: Dr. Bounlay Phommasack, Lao PDR

Facilitator: Mr. Joel Mangahas, ADB

1520–1540

Coffee Break

1540–1600

(iv) Towards a Regional Framework for Labor Migration Cooperation in the GMS

(Ms. Yuko Hamada, Senior Regional Labor Migration/Migration and Development Specialist, International Organization for Migration, Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific)

Ms. Hamada will discuss gaps in labor migration in the GMS and identify appropriate interventions for regional cooperation.

1600–1620

Discussion

Country Chair: Ms. Liu Yuanxin, People's Republic of China

Facilitator: Ms. Uzma Hoque, ADB

1620–1640

(v) Regional Health Issues in a Changing Global Landscape

(Mr. Vincent de Wit, Lead Health Specialist, Human and Social Development Division, Southeast Asia Department, ADB)

Mr. de Wit will review regional public health security issues in the changing global landscape, including newly emerging diseases, implementation of the Asia Pacific Strategy for Emerging Diseases, the importance of strengthening surveillance and response systems, the threat of zoonosis and need for inter-sectoral collaboration, the problem of drug resistance and role of Big Pharma, the link with degenerative

diseases, the changing aid architecture, and the need for increasing domestic and regional financing on research and development and regional collaboration.

- 1640–1700 **Discussion**
Country Chair: Mr. Bui Hoang Duc, Viet Nam
Facilitator: Ms. Emiko Masaki, ADB
- 1700–1710 **Announcement**
- 1730–1900 **Welcome Reception** (*Yadanar Rooms 2 & 3, Ground Level*)

DAY 2: Friday, 2 November 2012 (Yadanar Grand Ballroom, Ground Level)

MORNING SESSION

- 0900–0930 **Session 3: The GMS HRD Strategic Framework and Action Plan (SFAP) 2013-2017**
(Mr. Yasushi Hirosato, Principal Education Specialist, Human and Social Development Division, Southeast Asia Department, ADB and Mr. James Knowles, HRD Strategy and Program Development Specialist (Consultant), Human and Social Development Division, Southeast Asia Department, ADB)

Mr. Hirosato and Mr. Knowles will discuss the proposed strategic thrusts and action plan of the GMS HRD SFAP 2013-2017 for WGHRD's endorsement to the GMS Senior Officials' Meeting on 8-9 November 2012 and 18th GMS Ministerial Conference on 12-13 December 2012 in Nanning, PRC.
- 0930–1000 **Discussion**
Country Chair: Dr. Soe Lwin Nyein, Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Facilitator: Mr. Joel Mangahas, ADB
- 1000–1020 *Coffee Break*
- 1020–1030 **Guidelines and Arrangements for Subgroup Meetings**
(Mr. Yasushi Hirosato, ADB)

Mr. Hirosato will brief the participants on the guidelines and expected outputs from the subgroup meetings, including their respective group and room assignments, country designated presentors, rapporteurs, and facilitators.
- 1030–1200 **SUBGROUP MEETINGS**

Education Subgroup (Padamyar Room 2, Ground Level)
Lead Countries: Lao PDR and Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Facilitators: Mr. Yasushi Hirosato, ADB

Mr. Norman LaRocque, ADB

Mr. Joel Mangahas, ADB

ST 1: Capacity development in the economic corridors

ST 2: Development of standards in vocational and technical education

ST 3: Cooperation in higher education and research

ST 7: Strengthening institutions and mechanisms for GMS HRD cooperation

Health Subgroup (Padamyar Room 3, Ground Level)

Lead Countries: Cambodia and Viet Nam

Facilitator: Mr. Vincent de Wit, ADB

ST 4: Addressing regional health issues

ST 7: Strengthening institutions and mechanisms for GMS HRD cooperation

Labor and Migration Subgroup (Padamyar Room 4, Ground Level)

Lead Countries: People's Republic of China and Thailand

Facilitators: Ms. Emiko Masaki, ADB

Ms. Uzma Hoque, ADB

ST 5: Safe labor migration

ST 6: Mitigation of social costs in the economic corridors

ST 7: Strengthening institutions and mechanisms for GMS HRD cooperation

Note: Participants from social development subgroup, HRD focals, development partners, and experts can join one of any relevant subgroup discussions.

1200–1330 *Lunch (La Brasserie Restaurant, Ground Level)*

AFTERNOON SESSION (Yadanar Grand Ballroom, Ground Level)

1330–1400 **Summary of Discussions**
(Preparation for Presentation)

1400-1500 **Highlights of Subgroup Meetings**
(Subgroup Meetings Participants)

- **Education Subgroup**
- **Health Subgroup**
- **Labor and Migration**

1500–1530 *Coffee Break*

1530–1610 **Statements by Development Partners**
(ILO, IOM, SEAMEO Secretariat, UNDP/JUNIMA, UNESCO)

(Ms. Carmela I. Torres, ILO Decent Work Team Bangkok; Mr. Jaime Calderon, IOM)

Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific; Dr. Witaya Jeradechakul, SEAMEO Secretariat; Ms. Marta Vallejo Mestres, UNDP/JUNIMA; and Ms. Fuchsia Hepworth, UNESCO Yangon)

Development partners will share their ideas and insights on how they could contribute to effectively advancing the HRD agenda in the GMS, enhance knowledge sharing among the countries, and indicate their respective areas of interests for collaborative partnerships.

1610–1630

Way Forward: Implementing the HRD Action Plan, 2013-2017

(Ms. Leah C. Gutierrez, ADB and Mr. Yasushi Hirotsato, ADB)

WGHRD-11 Deliverables and Inputs for GMS 18th Ministerial Meeting in December 2012

- Endorsed Draft GMS HRD Strategic Framework and Action Plan, 2013-2017
- Endorsed Joint Action Plan for 2012-2014 of the MOU for Joint Action to Reduce HIV Vulnerability Associated with Population Movement

1630–1650

Closing Session

- **Synthesis/Wrap-up Session**

Ms. Leah C. Gutierrez
Director, Human and Social Development Division
Southeast Asia Department, ADB

- **Date and Venue of WGHRD-12**

Thailand Head of Delegation

- **Closing Remarks**

Dr. Soe Lwin Nyein
Professor/Director (Epidemiology)
Department of Health, Ministry of Health, Republic of the Union of Myanmar

EVENING**FREE**

APPENDIX 2: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**CAMBODIA**

1. **Mr. Tep Ouen**
Deputy Director General of Directorate General of Technical Vocational Education and Training, Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training
Phnom Penh City, Cambodia
Mobile: +855-1260-6572
Email: oeun_tep@yahoo.com
2. **Mr. Bun Sreng**
Chief of Bureau, CDC and Prevention, Department of CDC, Ministry of Health
Tel: +855-23-880-532
Mobile: +855-12-852824
Fax: +855-23-880-532
Email: bun_sreng72@yahoo.com, bun_sreng@online.com.kh
3. **Dr. Ros Seilavath**
Deputy Secretary General
Cambodia National Aids Authority
Bldg. 16, Street 271 L 150, Sangkat Teuklaak II Khan Toul Kok
Phnom Penh, Cambodia
Tel: +855-23-885-129
Mobile: +855-12-518393
Fax: +855-23-885-279
Email: seilavathmd@yahoo.com
4. **Mr. Sok Touch**
Director, CDC Dept, Ministry of Health
151-153 Kampuchea Krom Ave., Phnom Penh Cambodia
Tel: +855-23-882-317
Mobile: +855-12-856848
Fax: +855-23-882-317
Email: touch358@moh.gov.kh, chhanly@yahoo.com
5. **Mr. Mak Ngoy**
Director General
Directorate General of Higher Education, MOEYS
Tel: +855-23-217-937
Mobile: +855-12-383862
Email: mak.ngoy@moeys.gov.kh
6. **Mr. Lo Veasnakiry**
Director of Planning, MOH
151-153 Kampuchea Krom Ave., Phnom Penh Cambodia
Tel: +855-23-427-368
Mobile: +855-12-810505
Email: veasnakiry@gmail.com
7. **Mr. Kun Cheasin**
Assistant to Minister
Ministry of Labor

Mobile : +85588-7827777
Fax : +855-23-884-376
Email: kunsin2000@yahoo.com

PEOPLES REPUBLIC OF CHINA

8. **Ms. Nan Yang**
Deputy Section Chief, International Department, Ministry of Finance
Sanli He Street, Beijing China, 100080
Tel: +010-6855-1999
Mobile: +138-10573681
Fax: +010-6855-1119
Email: Carolina_yang@163.com
9. **Mr. He Shanhua**
Program Officer, International Department, Ministry of Education
Tel: +8610-6609-7648
Fax: +8610-6601-3647
Email: heshanhua@wzu.edu.au
10. **Ms. Liu Yuanxin**
Desk Officer
Bureau of Exit and Entry Administration, Ministry of Public Security
14 East Chang'An Avenue, Beijing China
Tel: +8610-6626-3096
Mobile: +13652-2176078
Fax: +8610-5818-6779
Email: carolyn1985@163.com
11. **Ms. Liu Ranran**
Program Officer, Department of International Cooperation, Ministry of Health
1 XiZhiMenWaiNanLu, Beijing, P.R. China
Tel: +0086-10-68792299
Mobile:
Fax: +0086-10-68792280
Email: christinelrr@hotmail.com
12. **Mr. Liu Yutong**
Director, International Department, Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security
3 Hepingli Dongjie, Beijing China
Fax: +8610-8423-3333
Email: liuyutong@mohrss.gov.cn
13. **Ms. Yi Lelai**
Program Officer, Department of Disease Control and Prevention, Ministry of Health
1 XiZhiMenWaiNanLu, Beijing, P.R. China
Tel: +0086-10-68792658
Mobile:
Fax: +0086-10-68792362
Email: yill@moh.gov.cn

LAO PDR

14. **Mr. Chanthachith Amphaychith**
Deputy Secretary General
Lao National Mekong Committee Secretariat,
Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE)
Khukulom Rd. P.O. Box 7864, Vientiane Capital City, Lao PDR
Tel: +856-21-260983; 261436
Mobile: +856-20-56504862
Fax: +856-21-260984
Email: chith3458@yahoo.com
15. **Mr. Bounpheng Philavong**
Director
Centre for HIV/AIDS and STI, Ministry of Health Lao PDR
Km3, Thadeua Road, Vientiane Capital, Lao PDR
Tel: +856-21-354014
Mobile: +856-20-23671175
Fax: +856-21-315727
Email: bounphengphilavong@yahoo.com
16. **Ms. Sisomphone Souvanny**
Deputy Head of Division
Children Assistance Section, Social Welfare Department, Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare
P.O. Box 347, Pangkham Road, Vientiane Capital, Lao PDR
Tel: +856-21-213005
Mobile: +856-20-22204695
Fax: +856-21-252685
Email: sisomphone_svn@yahoo.com
17. **Mr. Somphone Phangmanixay**
Project Deputy Director
Ministry of Health, Lao PDR
Department of Planning and International Cooperation
Tel: +856-21-252753
Mobile: +856-55508348
Fax: +856-21-223146
Email: sp_pmnx@yahoo.com
18. **Ms. Phonephet Bouppha**
Director General
Ministry of Education and Sports, Lao PDR
067 Vientiane Capital, Lao PDR
Tel: +856-21-212019
Mobile: +856-20-55675765
Fax: +856-21-212019
Email: phonephet12@hotmail.com
19. **Mr. Thongsa Inthavong**
Head of Division
Administrative Division, Technical and Vocational Education Department
Ministry of Education and Sports, Lao PDR
Tel: +856-21-216473
Mobile: +856-20-22439345
Fax: +856-21-216473

Email: ithongsa@gmail.com, manhphou@gmail.com

20. **Ms. Somchanh Xaysida**
Deputy Director General
Ministry of Health, Department of Training and Research
Simuong Road, Phiavat Village, Vientiane Capital, Lao PDR
Tel: +856-21-212221
Mobile: +856-20-22221670
Fax: +856-21-218488
Email: ridasyhanath@live.com
21. **Ms. Vongakone Phengdalith**
Deputy Head of Division
Lao Women's Union
Tel: +856-21-241-373
Mobile: +856-20-22916555
Fax: +856-21-241-373
Email: vongakone@gmail.com
22. **Mr. Chantone Khamsibounheuang**
Deputy Director
Center for HIV/AIDS & STI, Km. 3 Thadeua Road
Vientiane Capital, Lao PDR
Email: gfachas.chanthone@gmail.com
23. **Mr. Bounlay Phommasack**
Director General, Department of Disease Control
Tel: +856-21-242980
Mobile: +856-20-22222176
Fax: +856-21-242981
Email: bphommasack@gmail.com
- REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR**
24. **Mr. Soe Lwin Nyein**
Professor/Director (Epidemiology)
Ministry of Health, Nay Pyi Taw
Tel: +9567-421-205
Mobile: +959-8600097
Email: drslnyeina@gmail.com
25. **Ms. Tin Tin Lay**
Deputy Director General, Department of Medical Science, Ministry of Health
Tel: +9567-411-025
Mobile: +959-8304761
Fax: +9567-411-150
Email: drdawtintinlay@gmail.com
26. **Mr. Myint Shwe**
Deputy Director (HIV/AIDS)
Department of Health, Nay Pyi Taw
Tel: +9567-421-203
Mobile: +959-73154511

Fax: +9567-421-203
Email: dr.myintshwe1@gmail.com

27. **Mr. Zaw Myint**
Deputy Director General
Department of Higher Education,
Ministry of Education, Kamaryut Township, Yangon
Tel: 951-513-114
Mobile: +959-8301931
Fax: +951-513-115
Email: zawmyint.uzm@gmail.com

28. **Ms. Moh Moh Thwin**
Assistant Director
Department of Labour, Yangon
Tel: +951-667-644
Mobile: +959-5127651
Fax: +951-651-198
Email: mohmohtwin189@gmail.com

29. **Ms. Mar Mar Myint**
Principal
Department of Social Welfare
#18 Natmouk Lane Bahan Township, Yangon
Tel: +951-554-282
Fax: +951-554-282
Mobile: +959-73082725

30. **Mr. Nyan Win Myint**
Regional Surveillance Officer
Department of Health, Myanmar
22 Hung Theik Dt. St. I Mayagone, Yangon
Tel: +9567-420-437
Mobile: +959-43064746
Fax: +9567-421-205
Email: drnwymyint@gmail.com

THAILAND

31. **Ms. Jitkasem Tantasiri**
Director, Thai Cooperation Branch I
Thailand International Development Cooperation Agency, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
120 The Government Complex, 8th Flr. Rathaprasasanapakdi Bldg.
Laksi Bangkok, 10210 Thailand
Tel: +662-203-5000 Ext. 42401
Mobile: +668-59114133
Fax: +662-143-9329
Email: jitkasentu@yahoo.com

32. **Ms. Supparaporn Thammachart**
Plan and Policy Analyst
Bureau of Policy and Strategy, Ministry of Public Health
Tiwanon Road, Muang District, Nonthaburi Province, Thailand

- Tel: +662-590-1390
Mobile: +668-12566636
Fax: +662-590-1380
Email: thsukai@yahoo.com
33. **Mr. Bovornrit Chaiyapaeka**
Foreign Relations Officer
Ministry of Education
Dusit, Bangkok 10300 Thailand
Tel: +662-628-5646 Ext. 114
Fax: +662-281-0953
Email: bavornlith@yahoo.com
34. **Mr. Surasak Thanaisawanyangkoon**
Chief, International Collaboration Development
Bureau of AIDS, TB and STIS, Department of Disease Control
Ministry of Public Health, Thailand
Tel: +662-590-3218
Mobile: +668-67822288
Fax: +662-590-3218
Email: settha@gmail.com
35. **Ms. Chadarat Singhadechakul**
Director, Bureau of International Cooperation Strategy
Office of the Higher Education Commission
328 Si Ayutthaya Road, Bangkok 10400 Thailand
Tel: +662-610-5404
Mobile: +668-54887062
Fax: +662-354-5570
Email: chada@mua.go.th
36. **Ms. Saranpat Anumatrajki**
Director of International Cooperation Bureau
Office of the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Social Development and Human Security
1034 Krungkasem Road, Pomprab District, Bangkok 10100 Thailand
Tel: +662-306-8722/8842
Mobile: +668-18376908
Fax: +662-306-8718
Email: saranpata@gmail.com
37. **Mr. Prasan Tassakan**
Skill Development Technical Officer, Professional Level
Chiang Saen International Institute for Skill Development
222 Moo. 2 Wiang Sub-district, Chiang Saen District,
Chiang Rai Province, Thailand 57150
Tel: +66-5377-7471
Mobile: +668-19511123
Fax: +66-5377-7472
Email: pst2499@hotmail.com
38. **Ms. Vitida Sivakua**
Development Cooperation Officer

Thailand International Development Cooperation Agency, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
120 The Government Complex, 8th Flr. Rathaprasasanapakdi Bldg.
Laksi Bangkok, 10210 Thailand
Tel: +662-203-5000 Ext. 42409
Mobile: +668-63880970
Fax: +662-143-9329
Email: vitidasi@hotmail.com

39. **Mr. Krisnan Lawnum**
Deputy Director
Bureau of Policy and Strategy, Ministry of Public Health
Tel: +662-590-1375
Mobile: +6681-8222735
Fax: +662-965-9818
Email: krisnan@health.moph.go.th
40. **Ms. Jatuporn Rojanaparnich**
Director of International Cooperation
Ministry of Social Development and Human Security
1034 Krungkasem Road, Pomprab District, Bangkok 10100 Thailand
Tel: +662-306-8842
Mobile: +668-19379347
Fax: +662-306-8717
Email: jamjat@hotmail.com
41. **Ms. Tippaya Thongmee**
Foreign Relations Officer
Ministry of Social Development and Human Security
1034 Krungkasem Road, Pomprab District, Bangkok 10100 Thailand
Tel: +662-306-8842
Mobile: +668-18091417
Fax: +662-306-8718
Email: tthongmee@yahoo.com
42. **Ms. Sirima Tohmeena**
Policy and Plan Analyst, Professional Level
The Office of National Economic and Social Development Board
NESDB 962 Krungkasem Road, Pomprab, Bangkok, 10100
Tel: +662-280-4085 ext 3620
Mobile: +668-13843636
Fax: +66 2 281-1821-2
Email: Sirima@nesdb.go.th

VIET NAM

43. **Mr. Hung Cuong Duong**
Official of Foreign Economic Relations Department
Viet Nam Ministry of Planning and Investment
6B Hoang Dieu, Ha Noi
Tel: +8443-804-3029
Mobile: +8491-3583546
Fax: +8443-823-0161
Email: cuongmpi@gmail.com

44. **Mr. Giang Do Van**
 Official of Department Training
 General Department of Vocational Training, Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs
 37B Nguyen Binh Hein, Hai Ba Trung, Ha Noi
 Tel: +849-740-361
 Mobile: +849-12543392
 Email: giang402@gmail.com
45. **Mr. Huynh Khac Diep**
 Senior Official
 Expert of International Cooperation Department
 Ministry of Education and Training
 Tel: +844-3868-2935
 Mobile: +8491-9664868868
46. **Ms. Hai Nguyen Thanh**
 Head of Division of the International Cooperation Department, MOLISA
 Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs, 12 Ngo Quyen St. Hoan Kien District, Ha Noi
 Tel: +844-3826-9532
 Mobile: +8491-2907557
 Fax: +844-3825-4728
 Email: hainumolisa@yahoo.com
47. **Mr. Trung Kien Le**
 Officer
 General Department of Preventive Medicine
 Ministry of Health, 135 Nui Truc Lane,
 Ba Dinh District, Hanoi
 Tel:+844-3736-7046
 Mobile: +849-13347768
 Email: ltkien@outlook.com
48. **Mr. Duc Nguyen Thanh**
 Secretary of the Steering Committee for Human Resource Development of MOH
 Department of Science and Training, Ministry of Health, Viet Nam
 138A Giang ve St. BaDinh District, Ha Noi Viet Nam
 Tel: +844-6273-2443
 Mobile: +8491-2226389
 Email: thanhducsk@hotmail.com
49. **Mr. Bui Hoang Duc**
 Deputy Head of Department of Monitoring and Evaluation
 Vietnam Administration HIV/AIDS Control, Ministry of Health
 Rm. 703, Nui Truc St. Ha Noi
 Tel: +8443-846-5731
 Email: duccan76@gmail.com

DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS/INSTITUTIONS

50. **Ms. Carmela I. Torres**
 Senior Skills and Employability Specialist,
 International Labour Organization (ILO) Decent Work Team Bangkok

10th Flr. UN building, Rajdamnern Nok Ave., Bangkok 10200 Thailand
Tel: +662-288-1780
Mobile: +668-53483857
Fax: +662-288-3060
Email: torresc@ilo.org

51. **Mr. Jaime Calderon**
Regional Migration Health Adviser
International Organization for Migration
IOM Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
18th Flr. Rajanakarn Bldg., 183 South Sathorn Road, Sathorn Bangkok
10120 Thailand
Tel: +662-343-9448
Mobile: +668-18326900
Fax: +662-343-9499
Email: jcalderon@iom.int
52. **Ms. Yuko Hamada**
Senior Regional Labour Migration/Migration Development Specialist
International Organization for Migration
IOM Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
18th Flr. Rajanakarn Bldg., 183 South Sathorn Road, Sathorn Bangkok
10120 Thailand
Tel: +662-343-9350
Mobile: +668-18326804
Fax: +662-286-0630
Email: yhamada@iom.int
53. **Mr. John McGeoghan**
Regional Thematic Specialist-Migrant Protection
International Organization for Migration
IOM Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
18th Flr. Rajanakarn Bldg., 183 South Sathorn Road, Sathorn Bangkok
10120 Thailand
Tel: +662-343-9406
Mobile: +668-19158706
Email: jmcgeoghan@iom.int
54. **Mr. Etienne Clement**
Deputy Director
UNESCO
920 Sukhumvit Road, Prakanong, Klongtoei, Bangkok 10110 Thailand
Tel: +662-391-0577
Mobile: +668-79287030
Fax: +662-391-0866
Email: e.clement@unesco.org
55. **Ms. Fuchsia Hepworth**
Assistant Programme Specialist Education
UNESCO
UNESCO Yangon, 6 Natmauk Road, Tamwe Township, Yangon
Tel: +951-542-910 Ext. 109

- Mobile: +95-9421-156-901
 Fax: +951-544-531
 Email: f.hepworth@unesco.org
56. **Mr. Witaya Jeradechakul**
 Director
 SEAMEO Secretariat, 4Flr. Mom Luang Pin, Malakul Centenary Bldg.
 920 Sukhumvit Rd., Bangkok 10110 Thailand
 Tel: +662-391-0144
 Fax: +662-381-2587
 Email: witaya@seameo.org
57. **Ms. Abigail C. Lanceta**
 Programme Officer
 SEAMEO Secretariat, 4Flr. Mom Luang Pin, Malakul Centenary Bldg.
 920 Sukhumvit Rd., Bangkok 10110 Thailand
 Tel: 662-391-0144
 Mobile: +6681-1476134
 Fax: +662-381-2587
 Email: abigail@seameo.org
58. **Ms. Marta Vallejo Mestres**
 HIV/AIDS Programme Specialist
 UNDP
 Asia-Pacific Regional Centre, UNDP, 3rd Flr. United Nations Service Bldg.
 Rajdamnern Nok Avenue, Bangkok 10200, Thailand
 Tel : +662-304-9100 Ext. 1819
 Mobile : +6684-7004912
 Fax : +662-280-2700
 Email: marta.vallejo@undp.org
59. **Ms. Sauwakon Ratanawijitrasin**
 Centre Director
 SEAMEO Regional Center for Higher Education and
 Development, The Office of the Higher Education
 Commission Building, 5th Flr., 328 Sri Ayutthaya Road
 Rajathevee, Bangkok, 10400 Thailand
 Tel : +662-644-9856 Ext. 62
 Mobile : +668-96694993
 Fax : +662-644-5421
 Email : sauwakon@rihed.seameo.org
60. **Mr. Korn Ratanagosoom**
 Programme Officer
 ASEAN University Network (AUN) Secretariat
 Rm. 210 Jamjuree 1 Bldg. Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok Thailand 10330
 Tel: +662-215-3640
 Mobile: +668-18599991
 Fax: +662-216-8808
 Email: aun.korn@gmail.com
61. **Mr. Pratap Singhasivanon**
 Secretary-General/Coordinator of SEAMEO TROPED Network

420/6 Rajvithi Road, Ratchatnewi, Bangkok 10400 Thailand
Mobile: +81-8011293
tmpsh@mahidol.ac.th

62. **Ms. Mhwe Lon**
Training/Workshop Coordinator
International Labour Organization (ILO)
2012-2020, 12th Flr. Traders Hotel Yangon
Tel: +943096409
Email: lon@ilo.org, seiknyan9@gmail.com

ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

63. **Ms. Leah C. Gutierrez**
Director, Human and Social Development Division
Southeast Asia Department
Tel: +632-632-5936
Fax: +632-636-2228
Email: lcgutierrez@adb.org
64. **Mr. Putu M. Kamayana**
Head, Extended Mission in Myanmar
Email: pkamayana@adb.org
65. **Mr. Vincent de Wit**
Lead Health Specialist, Human and Social Development Division
Southeast Asia Department
Tel: +632-632-5732
Fax: +632-636-2228
Email: vdewit@adb.org
66. **Mr. Yasushi Hirosato**
Principal Education Specialist, Human and Social Development Division
Southeast Asia Department
Tel: +632-632-5952
Fax: +632-636-2228
Email: yhirosato@adb.org
67. **Mr. Norman LaRocque**
Senior Education Specialist, Human and Social Development Division
Southeast Asia Department
Tel: +632-632-5578
Fax: +632-636-2228
Email: nlarocque@adb.org
68. **Ms. Wendy Walker**
Senior Social Development Specialist, Urban and Social Sectors Division
East Asia Department
Tel: +632-632-5340
Email: wwalker@adb.org
69. **Ms. Emiko Masaki**
Social Sector Economist, Human and Social Development Division

Southeast Asia Department
Tel: +632-632-5470
Fax: +633-636-2228
Email: emasaki@adb.org

70. **Mr. Joel V. Mangahas**
Education Specialist, Human and Social Development Division
Southeast Asia Department
Tel: +632-632-1567
Fax: +633-636-2228
Email: jmangahas@adb.org
71. **Ms. Uzma Hoque**
Social Development Specialist (Gender and Development), Office of the Director General
Southeast Asia Department
Tel: +632-632-4040
Email: uhoque@adb.org
72. **Mr. James Knowles**
Consultant
Email: JKinUSA@aol.com
73. **Mr. Chris Lyttleton**
Professor/ADB Consultant
Macquarie University
Department of Anthropology, Macquarie University
NSW2109, Australia
Tel: +612+9850+7783
Mobile: +668-798-30986
Email: Chris.Lyttleton@gmail.com

Forum Secretariat/Administrative Support:

74. **Ms. Rafaelita Jamon**
Consultant
Tel: +632-632-5234
Fax: +633-636-2228
Email: rjamon.consultant@adb.org
75. **Ms. Madeline Dizon**
Senior Operations Assistant, Human and Social Development Division
Southeast Asia Department
Tel: +632-632-5934
Fax: +633-636-2228
Email: mdizon@adb.org
76. **Ms. Joji M. Bautista**
Operations Assistant, Human and Social Development Division
Southeast Asia Department
Tel: +632-632-6897
Fax: +633-636-2228
Email: jmbautista@adb.org

77. **Ms. Dr. Toe Thiri Aung**
Assistant Director, Central Epidemiology Unit
Department of Health, Ministry of Health (Myanmar)
Tel: +95-67-420437
Fax: +95-67-421205
Email: toethiri.atl@gmail.com
78. **Ms. Cho Cho Mar**
Assistant Computer Officer, Central Epidemiology Unit
Department of Health, Ministry of Health (Myanmar)
Tel: +95-67-420437
Fax: +95-67-421205
Email: chomar.ceu@gmail.com

APPENDIX 3: SPEECHES

I. Myanmar Welcome Remarks¹

Mr. Putu Kamayana, Head of ADB's Extended Mission in Myanmar,

Ms. Leah Gutierrez, Director of the Human and Social Development Division, Southeast Asia Division, ADB

Distinguished participants from the GMS Countries,

Representatives of Development Partners,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning to everyone. On behalf of the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, I would like to extend our cordial welcome to Yangon to all the delegates from the GMS countries. I would like also to extend our warm welcome to our development partners and the ADB team which has worked very hard in helping us organize this 11th Meeting of the GMS Working Group on Human Resource Development. You have travelled a long way coming here, and we hope that you find the facilities in this meeting venue comfortable during your brief stay.

Myanmar has been an active member of the GMS Economic Cooperation Program since its inception in 1992. Our participation in the GMS Program has provided impetus to our national efforts at reducing poverty through regional cooperation. For example, Myanmar has participated in a number of regional technical assistance (RETA) projects in the transport, energy, trade facilitation, environment, human resource development, agriculture, and tourism sectors. Although lending and other ODA operations by bilateral and multilateral donors were suspended until recently, Myanmar has nonetheless benefited from GMS regional technical assistance through our participation and exchange of knowledge inputs with other GMS members in various high-level, sector working group, and project level meetings. Some recent examples are Myanmar's hosting of the 4th GMS Summit of Leaders in Nay Pyi Taw on 19-20 December 2011, which endorsed the new GMS Strategic Framework (SF) 2012-2022, as well as sector programs for agriculture, environment, tourism, and HRD. Myanmar also hosted the Fourth Economic Corridors Forum in Mandalay in June 2012, which discussed key issues in economic corridor development under the new SF.

In the HRD sector, Myanmar has participated in regional activities related to communicable disease control which is a top priority for GMS collaboration in this sector. Many of our senior and middle-level government officials have participated in training programs and knowledge-sharing activities of the GMS Phnom Penh Plan for Development Management. Myanmar has also participated actively in meetings of the GMS Working Group on HRD.

As our country continues to open up to greater flows of trade, investment and tourism, we would need to double our efforts to strengthen our public institutions and build our human capital to be able to meet the development challenges ahead of us. We would need to enhance the skills, productivity, and competitiveness of our workforce to meet the demands of the local and regional labor markets. We would need to address social concerns in health and education

¹ Dr. Tin Tin Lay, Deputy Director General, Department of Health, Ministry of Health, Republic of the Union of Myanmar

especially in the poorest regions of the country, strengthen the capacity of our civil service at the central and local levels, and develop our national institutions to be able to support the economic reform agenda. Indeed, we could learn from the lessons of our fellow GMS members to ensure that the fruits of development could trickle to our urban and rural areas and be equitably shared among our diverse population.

For these reasons, Myanmar will continue to nurture its link with the other GMS countries through our participation in the GMS Program, and in the GMS Working Group on HRD, in particular. The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar stands ready to continue working with the other GMS countries in pursuing HRD cooperation, and looks forward to our cordial and productive discussions at this meeting.

Although we have a tight agenda, we hope that you could also find some free time to go around Yangon, see the cultural highlights of the city, and enjoy the traditional hospitality of the Myanmar people.

I wish all of us a successful meeting. Thank you.

II. ADB Extended Mission in Myanmar Opening Remarks²

Dr. Tin Tin Lay, Deputy Director General, Department of Health, Ministry of Health, Myanmar, Republic of the Union of Myanmar

My ADB colleague, Leah Gutierrez, Director of the Human and Social Development Division, Southeast Asia Division, ADB

Distinguished participants from the GMS Countries,

Representatives of Development Partners,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning to everyone. On behalf of the Asian Development Bank, I would like to join our host in extending to all of you a warm welcome to Yangon. This Eleventh Meeting of the GMS Working Group on Human Resource Development comes at a very auspicious time in the context of the historic and rapid changes that have accompanied Myanmar's emergence from a long period of political and economic isolation. The unprecedented reforms that have taken place over the past several months have made it possible for me to stand before you today and join this important gathering as the Head of ADB's Extended Mission to Myanmar. At the moment, we have a rather small office here in Yangon, but it represents a significant step towards the re-engagement. ADB has approved an Interim Country Partnership Strategy for Myanmar, which is vital for eventual resumption of ADB operations in Myanmar.

Your working group serves an important role in the GMS Program because human resource development is a key sector of the GMS Economic Cooperation Program. No less than the Leaders of the GMS countries, at their Fourth Summit held here in Myanmar last December, have emphasized this when they endorsed the new GMS Strategic Framework that would guide subregional cooperation over the next decade. The new GMS Strategic Framework maintains

² Delivered by Mr. Putu Kamayana, Head, ADB Extended Mission in Myanmar

the overall vision and goals that currently guide the GMS Program towards a more integrated, prosperous, and equitable Mekong subregion. Among the key sector and multisector priorities of the GMS Program for the next decade is “supporting human resource development initiatives that facilitate the process of GMS integration while addressing any negative consequences of greater integration.”

At this point, allow me to congratulate the working group for the substantial achievements made on a range of HRD projects and activities. These include the prevention and control of emerging and neglected communicable diseases among vulnerable populations along the GMS economic corridors as well initiatives for the prevention of the spread of HIV/AIDS among vulnerable populations. Under your working group’s auspices, a GMS framework for mutual skills recognition has been successfully piloted to support labor mobility and address shortages in certain skills areas. Labor migration awareness campaign programs and community-based vulnerability monitoring and referral systems on human trafficking and safe migration have been completed. The Phnom Penh Plan for Development Management has continued to support capacity building activities for close to 2,000 of the subregion’s government officials, as well as the strengthening of GMS academic and research institutions, and the promotion of policy dialogue and knowledge sharing.

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Mekong subregion has a population of over 320 million and a huge potential for expanded economic growth through strengthened regional cooperation and integration. Myanmar, with a population of over 60 million, is now drawing up a development strategy that will set out the government’s priorities in various sectors, including those in education. Through WGHRD, Myanmar could very well learn lessons from the other GMS countries about building the capacity of government institutions and its people through subregional cooperation in education and vocational and technical training.

In the course of your two-day meeting, your working group will review the progress of work under the HRD Strategy and Action Plan for 2009-2012. A major output of your meeting is expected to be the formal endorsement of the new GMS HRD Strategy and Action Plan for 2013-2017 to guide the next phase of cooperation to address health, education, labor and migration, and social development issues.

ADB is pleased to have been a consistent partner to the GMS Program. We serve as the Program’s coordinator, financier, and secretariat. Over the past two decades and as of end of December 2011, the GMS Program has mobilized over \$15 billion in financing for loan and grants as well as technical assistance and other capacity-building and knowledge-generating activities. About one third of these resources came from ADB while the rest came from the GMS governments, other development partners, and private sector co-financing. ADB looks forward to another decade of productive partnership with all concerned stakeholders towards implementing the new Strategic Framework and in mobilizing much-needed investments and technical assistance for the long-term benefit of the subregion and its peoples.

In closing, I would like once again to thank our host, the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, for organizing this meeting here in Yangon and for the opportunity to join you at this opening session. I wish all of you productive discussions and a fruitful meeting.

Thank you.

III. **ADB Human and Social Development Division, Southeast Asia Department Remarks³**

Daw Than Than Lin, GMS National Coordinator for Myanmar,

My colleague, Mr. Putu Kamayana, Head of the ADB Extended Mission in Myanmar,

Distinguished participants from the GMS member countries,

Representatives of Development Partner Agencies,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Good morning. On behalf of the Asian Development Bank, I would like to express our sincere appreciation to the Government of Myanmar for organizing and hosting this 11th Meeting of the GMS Working Group on Human Resource Development here in Yangon. I join our host and my ADB colleague, Mr. Putu Kamayana, in extending our warm welcome to all participants from the GMS countries and development partner agencies. As the new Director of the Human and Social Development Division of ADB's Southeast Asia Department, I am privileged to join for the first time many of you, who, for quite some time now, have been working with the Working Group on HRD. I am aware that the working group has been at the forefront of fostering subregional collaboration on a wide range of concerns relating to education, health, labor and migration, and social development under the GMS Economic Cooperation Program. Much of the success of the GMS Program which celebrates its 20th anniversary this year has been driven by the work of the sector working groups including this one.

Our meeting is timely and is a milestone event as this year marks the winding down of the GMS HRD Strategic Framework and Action Plan for 2009-2012. This is also the first meeting of the working group following the formal adoption by the GMS Leaders at their 4th Summit in December last year of the new ten-year GMS Strategic Framework (GMS SF) for 2012-2022.

Permit me to say a few words about the new GMS SF which embodies the overall framework for subregional cooperation under the GMS Program. The new GMS SF is anchored on the economic corridor approach and emphasizes the need to broaden and deepen the corridors by ensuring that benefits are spread extensively along and around the corridors, such as through the development of border and corridor towns, the establishment of feeder roads and integrated area development, as well as paying greater attention to inter-sector linkages and multi-sector aspects of corridor development. This will include increased focus on social and human resource concerns, including ensuring the smooth but properly regulated cross-border movements of people and promoting food and energy security, and appropriately addressing climate change concerns. The new GMS SF, therefore, recognizes that while the GMS Program has had considerable success in fostering physical connectivity through regional infrastructure development, there is now a need to more substantially and effectively address the soft issues that are becoming increasingly important, such as those concerning the environment, health, education and capacity building, and labor migration.

³ Delivered by Ms. Leah Gutierrez, Director, Human and Social Development Division, Southeast Asia Department.

Under the new GMS SF, subregional cooperation in HRD remains one of the strategic priorities and will continue to support initiatives that facilitate the process of GMS integration while addressing any negative consequences of greater integration. The new GMS SF recommends (i) further prioritization in the HRD action plan, with labor migration receiving more attention in light of expected regional developments; (ii) careful review of the future directions of the Phnom Penh Plan for Development Management and overall GMS capacity building initiatives; and (iii) continued review and strengthening of the institutional arrangements, structure, and operations of the Working Group on HRD.

Most of you may recall that in anticipation of the winding down of the HRD Strategic Framework and Action Plan this year, the WGHRD-10 held in May 2011 decided to have two five-year HRD Strategic Frameworks and Action Plans prepared - one for 2013 to 2017, and another for 2018 to 2022, to coincide with the time frame of the new 10-year GMS Strategic Framework.

We therefore have a big and challenging task for this meeting, and that is to consider and hopefully endorse the Draft GMS HRD Strategic Framework and Action Plan for 2013-2017, for eventual endorsement by the upcoming 18th GMS Ministerial Conference scheduled in mid-December 2012 in Nanning, PRC. We also need to determine the indicative investment and technical assistance pipeline of priority projects to implement the new HRD Action Plan that will eventually form part of the Regional Investment Framework for the GMS SF. The Regional Investment Framework or RIF will consist of a preliminary pipeline of new generation multi-sector investment approaches to implement the new GMS SF, which is expected to be ready by early 2013.

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

The Draft GMS HRD Strategic Framework and Action Plan for 2013-2017, the main agenda item in our meeting today, has evolved over the past several months and has taken into account the views, insights, and recommendations arising from a series of consultations with many stakeholders from the public and private sectors of the GMS countries and development partner agencies. It is something that the GMS countries themselves own that will guide and drive collaborative activities for the next 5 years.

For our part, the Asian Development Bank is prepared to continue helping as your secretariat and coordinating the close partnerships that the working group has nurtured not only among the GMS countries but also with the development partner community. We look forward to working closely with all of you in fostering sustainable human resource development in the GMS.

Thank you very much.

APPENDIX 4: STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATION

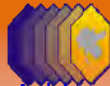
A. Cambodia



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Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Cambodian Delegates


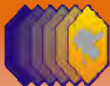
1. Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training
Mr. Tep OEUN, D.D.G of TVET
Mr. Kun Cheasin, Minister's secretary
2. Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports
H.E. MaNgoy, DG of JHE
3. Ministry of Health
Dr. Sok Touch, Director of Communicable Disease Dept.
Dr. Lo Veasnakiry, Director of Planning and health Information Dept.
Mr. Bun Sreng, D.D. of Communicable Disease Dept.
4. National AIDS Authority
Dr. Ros Seilavath, Deputy Secretary General

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Achievements



1. Labour Migration
 - Developed the **Labour Migration Policy**, June 2010
 - Developed the **Pre-departure Orientation Manual** for migrant worker, July 2010
 - Formulated a **Sub-decree on Sending Cambodian Workers Abroad**, 2011,
 - Developed Guide Book: **Travel Smart/Work Smart**, 2009
2. Health: Developed capacity building in disease surveillance and response, outbreak investigation and control (emerging infectious diseases, dengue, helminthes infections, HIV/AIDS):
 - **CDC 1 (2005-09, 5 provinces), 8,682 (F-23%; Ethnic- 4%) trained,**
 - **CDC 2 (2011-15, 10 provinces), 1,486 (F-27%) trained**

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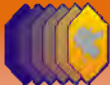
Strategic priority for sub-regional cooperation

- Strengthening cooperation amongst existing projects
- **Education/skills recognition** for cross-border labour migrants
- Providing skilled & unskilled workers with cross-border employed opportunities
- Monitoring & facilitating **illegal migrant workers** to become **legal migrant workers** (e.g. IC)
- Educating and disseminating materials on legal labour migration, **safety migration**, etc esp. conducting pre-departure training for migrants


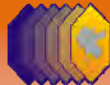
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- Strengthening the implementation of ASEAN declaration on Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers
- Establishing **Help Center(s)**, **Labor Attaché Office(s)**, **Out-migration Association(s)**, and **2 LMISs**
- Develop legislations for communicable diseases control i.e. law, regulations.
- Promoting enabling environment and mechanism (collect evidence to advocate policy maker)
- Promote community-based approaches that reduce HIV vulnerability


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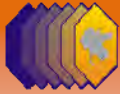
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- Promoting access to HIV and AIDS prevention, treatment, care and support (dialogue with neighbor countries to establish mechanism)
- Prevention of child labor and human trafficking
- Constructing **rehabilitation/reception centers** for victims of human trafficking.
- Strengthening higher education and research






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Recommendations

1. Technical Officers should be trained in PPP
2. Sub-Regional Qualification Framework (SRQF), including education/skills standard and quality assurance, should be developed and implemented
3. Labour migration, and social protection should be safeguarded *(if laws, policy, planning, mechanism, participation, MoU are existing, these should be complied with, if not existing, these should be formulated)*




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Recommendations *contd.*

4. Sub-regional LMIS to be set up and maintained *(which entity is responsible for this, what is the support system, where will the main center be located, how will the information be collected)*
5. Continue capacity building via effective training on communicable diseases including field epidemiological training, with sufficient supply of materials, medicine and equipment.
6. Sub-regional co-operation is required
7. Implementing agencies of the GMS project should cooperate more closely with their involved government sectors.
8. Provide salary supplementary to project national counterparts.
9. Set up Network for university cooperation



B. PRC

Ladies and Gentlemen, Good Morning,

I am very delighted to make this Country Statement on behalf of the People's Republic of China.

I wish to extend my great appreciation to ADB and Yangon for their excellent preparation and arrangement. I believe the meeting will play an active role in promoting the human resource development and cooperation in the GMS. The statement includes 3 parts:

- Our achievements and progress
- Problems and challenges we face
- Our suggestions and future work plan

First of all, I would like to review our achievements and progress in this field. In terms of **Health Sector**, we have made remarkable progress. For example, China has initiated the cross-border communicable disease programs in Guangxi and Yunnan province since 2005 supported by the national financial expenditure with Myanmar, Laos P.D.R. and Vietnam.

--Joint control and prevention program of malaria and dengue fever in border areas with Myanmar, Laos P.D.R. and Viet Nam,

--Joint control and prevention program of HIV/AIDS in border areas with Myanmar, Laos P.D.R. and Viet Nam,

--Joint control and prevention program of tuberculosis in border areas with Vietnam,

This July, we attended the 6th country consultancies meeting in Bangkok and join the discussion for the implementation of the MOU.

With regard to **Education Cooperation**, I would like to highlight four achievements:

1. China has offered government scholarship to GMS countries which increased 28% by last year with total number of 3457.
2. Under the China-Asean Framework, China has established 10 education bases and hold 5 successive week.
3. China has established 27 Confucius Institute and classrooms in 2012.
China has built 10 human resources training bases for developing countries.

With regard to **Public Security Departments' Recent Immigration Control Work,**

I would like to highlight three areas particularly. First, The Chinese public security departments began issuing the electronic ordinary passport on 15th May 2012, which will play a very positive role in safeguarding China's national security, facilitating traveling of the citizens and promoting personnel exchange. Second, The Law on Exit and Entry Control of Citizens of the People's Republic of China was officially promulgated on 30th June 2012 and will go into force on 1st July 2013 which further improves all entry and exit related control systems, introducing new measures such as deepening interdepartmental coordination, establishing information sharing platform, and preserving biological identification information, among others, which will more effectively safeguard the national sovereignty and security and maintain a sound entry and exit order. Third, In recent years, to further promote economic cooperation in the Great Mekong Subregion, we have followed up and implemented the Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-Border Cargo and Personnel Transportation in the Great Mekong Subregion, making continuous efforts in promoting personnel movement in the region and offering a convenient and speedy port clearance environment to the cross-border travelers. another 12 facilitation measures were introduced on 1st January 2012 to further improve the efficiency and convenience of border control, The implementation of the above said measures has lowered the non-operational port time and production cost for the affected businesses and organizations, sped up travelers' port clearance procedure and promoted personnel exchange and economic/trade flow between China and other countries, including the Great Mekong Subregion.

Part 2: Problems and challenges we face

Firstly, GMS Working Group on Human Resource Development (WGHRD) is cross-sector, with different agencies or departments to manage it together, which is a time-and-energy consuming process to coordinate. The above problem may impair the sound and sustainable improvement of GMS human resource development in the long run.

Secondly, there is a little overlap and repeat between Working Group Meetings, sub-group meetings under GMS HRD sometimes, which needs the better coordination.

Finally, in health sector, there seems to be a lack of fund support, in addition, we suggest that add more professional training under this field.

Part 3: Our suggestions and future work plan

Along with the ongoing economic globalization, international population flow is booming, as international interdependence grows deeper and economic cooperation closer. The 11th HR Working Group Conference on Economic Cooperation of the Great Mekong Subregion offers a great platform for dialogue, exchange and cooperation. The dialogue and cooperation are playing an increasingly important role in the labor immigration management area. To that end, the Ministry of Public Security makes the following proposals:

GMS has gained precious experience in the past years and has become a mature mechanism. Looking into the future, we should develop its advantages and avoid the weakness to explore a new horizon. Specifically, we suggest to:

In health sector, Based on the discussion on implementation of the MOU during the 6th country consultation on implementation of the MOU, we suggest to establish a multi-sector cooperation mechanism for reducing HIV vulnerability in this region since information sharing and participants referral need the cooperation of different sectors such as publish security, quarantine in spite of public health. We are going to deepen and widen the current cross-border health cooperation programs to make more practical progress in the years to come.


In education sector, we are going to create sustainable international education exchange platform by improving the current multilateral and bilateral mechanisms; to bring China's education advantage into play and continue to increase the scale of Chinese Government Scholarship for more students from the GMS countries to study in China; to push forward the internationalization of Chinese language by the establishment of "Confucian Colleague".

In immigration sector, Firstly, further promote normal immigration activities to further expand the legitimate channels for normal labor, student, tourist and business immigration for mutual complementation, benefits and win-win results. Secondly, enhance dialogue, consultation and pragmatic cooperation. Multileveled and effective bilateral and multilateral cooperation between all countries should be conducted to exchange information and share experiences. In the mean time, authentic efforts should be made to promote pragmatic cooperation in the relevant areas

and on specific projects. We are more than willing to escalate exchanges with the immigration services and personnel to enable port clearance facilitation and boost immigration control cooperation with all countries in the Great Mekong Subregion. Thirdly, promote immigration control capability construction: to enhance immigration control training and institutional construction, to introduce new policies and measures to facilitate personnel flow, to improve advanced technology research and utilization, to boost illegal immigration prevention and fighting in a comprehensive manner. In summary, we are confident that a better sub-region will achieve under our diligent effort. Thank you for your attention and wish you have a nice time in China.


C. Lao PDR

11th Meeting of the GMS Working Group in Human Resource Development



**Country Statement
Lao PDR**


Yangon, Republic of the Union of Myanmar
01-02 November 2012



1

Outline of Presentation

- ❑ Briefly Background
- ❑ Key Achievements in HRD 2009-2012
- ❑ Strategic Priorities for Sub regional Cooperation
- ❑ Key Concerns and Recommendations



2

**Brief Background
Of
Human Resource Development
In Lao PDR**




3

Key Achievements

Education Sector

- ❑ Education Law
- ❑ National Education System Reform Strategy 2006-2015
- ❑ Education Sector Development Framework 2009-2015
- ❑ Strategic Plan for DTNET 2006-2020
- ❑ TVET Master Plan 2008-2015

What we have achieved?

- ✓ Develop of qualified labor forces, *train the skills workers* and technician
- ✓ TVET was emphasized and support on both public and private sectors



4

Key Achievements Con't

Health Sector

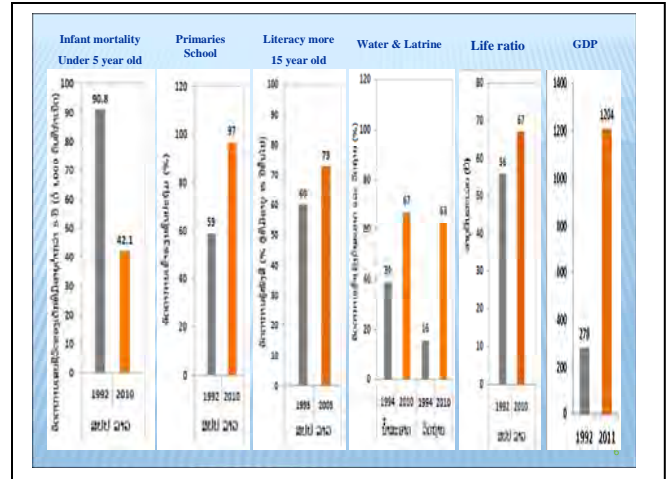
- ❑ Law of Health Care; Drug and Medical; Hygiene and Health Promotion; HIV/AIDS Combat and Control; and Tobacco Control
- ❑ Health Personnel Development **Strategic by 2020**
- ❑ Health Insurance/Health Equity **Fund**
- ❑ Decree of National Health Insurance No.470/GV, 17/10/2012

What we have achieved?

- ✓ Maternal & Infant mortality
- ✓ Proportion of population with sustainable access to an improved water and latrine
- ✓ Control of diseases (malaria, tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS)
- ✓ Life expectancy



5





Key Achievements Con't

Labor Sector

- ❑ Labor Law
- ❑ Law on Labor Management and Against Human Trafficking
- ❑ Law on the Protection of the Right and Benefits of Children
- ❑ Strategic on Labor Development 2011-2020


What we have achieved?

- ✓ Skills development/training in Northern Part
- ✓ Upgrade the skills of labor force and set the skills standards based on the occupation subjects
- ✓ Focusing on development labor market and information

Challenges

1. Balance Between Poverty Reduction and Sustainable Use of Natural Resources
2. Skilled Human Resources
3. Adequate Financial Assistance
4. Effective Implementation of Legislations and Regulations
5. Weak of both National and Regional Coordination Mechanism
6. Limitation of Access to Data and Information among GMS countries



8

Strategic Priorities for Subregional Cooperation

- ❑ MOES is *reform's policies* for the 2nd phase of 2011-2015
- ❑ Health Insurance including HIV/AIDS in remote areas and economic corridor areas are very significant for people life
- ❑ Continuing regional economic integration and the open-door policy is important
- ❑ Strengthen WGHRD Coordination System
- ❑ Promote and Develop Sustainable Tourism
- ❑ Labor skills exchange between GMS countries
- ❑ Human Trafficking protection




Recommendations

- ❑ SFAP HRD activities should be focused on Economic corridor areas and remote areas
- ❑ Improving and Strengthening Capacity in both side of human and institutions development are required
- ❑ Study tour and exchange experience among GMS countries are necessary in remote areas
- ❑ Technical and Vocational Education and Training must be emphasized in remote areas and economic corridor areas
- ❑ Labor migration and human trafficking are very significant in GMS countries in the future



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D. Myanmar

Following the launching of GMS program in 1992, Myanmar has been committed to cooperate with other GMS member countries for Mekong Region Development. Ladies and gentleman, as you all recognize, our country, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has been on the track of the political and economic transformations since 2011. During these historical reforms, Myanmar has been enhancing its relationship with regional countries in combating the common challenges and attaining the common goals.

Being a developing country, Myanmar faces a variety of challenges on human resource development in health and education, labor migration and social development. Although we have such kind of challenges, we try to overcome all these challenges and get some achievements.

1. Achievements

The higher education sector promotes academic collaboration between Myanmar higher education institutions , regional & International Organization, research centers & Universities. Yangon University and Yangon institute of Economics became members of ASEAN University Network (AUN) and member institutions promote collaborations exchange of expertise. Myanmar is also a member of the SEAMEO.

4 Universities of Medicine and University of Public Health became members of SEAPHEIN (South East Asia Public Health Education Institution Network) for knowledge exchange and promoting Public Health Education in SEA countries.

For improving access to Education in Border area, the State has opened 888 primary schools, 92 middle schools and 94 high schools in border area. In cooperation with UN agencies & international organizations in Border Areas Development Project, it has built 892 schools & upgraded 953 schools. For poor youths with less opportunity to pursue education, 29 Border Areas National Races Youths Development Training Schools were opened. A total of 39 Women's Vocational Training Schools were opened in border areas with the aim of developing living status of young women. Up to date 38,489 young women have been trained at these schools. National Races Youth Industrial Training Schools were opened in border areas.

Social Sector: After conducting surveys on women, National Plan of Action on Advancement of women 2011-2015 is developed and gender equity and equality are highlighted. National

committee has been formed and comprising of government, UN Agencies & Women protection working group. The plan of action will be carried out in near future.

With regard to social protection on children, Interagency Working Group is formed. Rural Development Plan is being drawn-up. DSW and DOH jointly made research survey on orphan vulnerable children - OVC children with HIV/AIDS. OVC are being provided with education and vocational trainings and social support. According to the Anti- Trafficking in Persons Law, Myanmar Central Body of Anti-Trafficking in Persons signed bilateral agreement with Thailand and also with China.

Safe labour migration: MOU was signed by the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the Government of Thailand. Of this endeavor, 454, 677 undocumented Myanmar workers could successfully undergo the nationality verification process and they were issued the temporary passports and overseas worker identification cards.

Skill development: The skill training centre of the Department of Labour and Overseas Employment Agencies are conducting training courses for skill development of the workers. In order to become more effective and competent Myanmar workers, the National Skill Standard Authority (NSSA) was formed in 2007 with the aim to establish the National unified system for skill recognition in collaboration with the various ministries.

Health Sector : Cross border Bilateral Collaborative workshop between Myanmar and Thailand was conducted in April 2012. And the Myanmar- Thailand Cross Border Joint Action Plan and MBDS Action Plan were developed to provide cross border health services including prevention and control of communicable disease especially Emerging Infectious diseases. For effective implementation of these activities, the Prevention and Control of Communicable Disease Law was amended.

National AIDS program: More most at risk population groups are reached with HIV prevention program and achieved increasing ART coverage for PLHIVs. HIV prevalence among young pregnancy women was decreased (MDG indicator). NAP received incoming of Global Fund Round 9.

Myanmar National Strategic Plan (NSP) on HIV and AIDS (2011-2015) has also been developed with participatory efforts from all stakeholders. Strategic priority is the mobile and migrant population and community affected by population movement.

National TB program: - Recruited additional staff under Global Fund Round 9 and NTP staff received International Training on MDR-TB management and infection control.

National Malaria Control Program: Malaria morbidity rate and Malaria mortality rate come down and Myanmar-Thailand border Development Plan has already been agreed by the MOPH (Thailand) and MOH (Myanmar).

Recommendation and Next Steps

- Develop effective governance in managing HRD
- Encourage economic development
- Strengthen collaboration and coordination between GMS countries
- Enhancing the quality of Higher Education
- Increasing the accessibility to both Basic and Higher Education
- Creating strong research environment
- Sustainable social development
- Develop ways for information and knowledge sharing
- Cross border surveillance and response,
- Close collaboration for safe migration & elimination of trafficking
- Establish labour migration policies and management system for more effective and systematic approach in cooperation
- Support information exchange of migrant workers

With the dynamic developmental process in Myanmar, we could face more and more development challenges unless we prepare our best. We need to put all our efforts in realization of the plan which would require additional resources. However, we believe that cooperation between all GMS member countries , together with the assistance of ADB, we can overcome all the obstacles. Thank you for the current action plan which reflects the Myanmar's eligibility to participate in all new projects including investment projects.

We expect that, in the near future, human resource development in health, education, labor and migration, and social development of Myanmar will be strengthened in the context of GMS.

E. Thailand

THAILAND COUNTRY STATEMENT

The 11th Meeting of the GMS Working Group
on Human Resource Development

1 – 2 November 2012

Yangon , Myanmar

EDUCATION

o Vocational Education

- Promote vocational education and higher education by focusing on the quality assurance of the institutions to reach international standard
- Set up the Occupational Standards
- Improve vocational skills of students, youth and general workers in preparation toward ASEAN Economic Community in 2015
- Improve the standard of the training of vocational trainers
- Improve English Language skills of Thai students in preparation toward the ASEAN Community in 2015

EDUCATION

o Higher Education

- Improve curriculums to meet international standard
- Enable credit transfer
- Promote and Support the use of ICT for Education
- Promote research work, science and technology, and innovation

EDUCATION

o Preparation toward ASEAN Community

- Set up ASEAN Curriculum in preparation for ASEAN Community in 2015 covering five key issues
 - 1) Knowing ASEAN
 - 2) Valuing Identity and Diversity
 - 3) Connecting Global and Local
 - 4) Promoting Equity and Justice
 - 5) Working Together for a Sustainable Future

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

o Anti-Human Trafficking

- Training 1,550 Police officers in the provinces with human trafficking cases to be “Officials” in accordance with the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act B.E. 2551 (2008)
- MOU in Anti-Human Trafficking with countries in GMS both Bilateral and Multilateral levels

o Empowerment of Women

- Set up the “Women Development Fund”

o Mekong Youth Programme

- “Mekong Youth Friendship Program” (cooperation with China) for all 6 GMS countries
- Youth: Bridge of Friendship, China-Thailand: the exchange of youth between Thailand and China

PUBLIC HEALTH AND HIV/AIDS

- The implementation progress of the MOU on HIV/AIDS Vulnerability Reduction at cross-border areas in the GMS (signed during the 4th GMS Summit in December 2011)
- Border Health cooperation
- Implementation under ACMECS Framework
 - The Training course on STIs Case Management Skills (10 – 21 Oct. 2011)
 - The training of Joint SRRT on Surveillance, Outbreak Investigation and Response at the Border Areas (Nan-Xayaboury Provinces) (9 – 11 May 2012)
 - The training on Prevention of HIV and STIs through Sexual Transmission in Special Target Population Groups (25 – 31 Mar. 2012)

COUNTRY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

○ Thailand International Cooperation Programs

- Bilateral and sub-regional frameworks
- More than 1,000 Long-term scholarships and short-term training fellowships to GMS member countries during 2011 – 2012
- More than 40 development cooperation projects in neighbouring countries
- Dispatching of Thai experts and volunteers

COUNTRY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

GMS Frameworks:

Health:

- International Training Course on “Program Management of Prevention of Mother to Child HIV Transmission (PMTCT)” 15 – 24 February 2012

Labour and Skill Development:

- 3 International Training Courses
- Training of the Trainer Course (4 – 24 March 2012)
- Strategic Planning for the Labor Development Course (6 – 26 May 2012)
- Competency Based Training Course (8 – 28 July 2012)

COUNTRY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

Social Development (Anti Human Trafficking):

- Workshop on “Initiatives and Opportunities for Joint Standard Setting on Victim Identification Guidelines and Standard Operating Procedures (SOP)” 12 – 16 June, 2012

Output:

- 1) Zero Draft Guideline for Identifying Victims of Human Trafficking within GMS
- 2) Zero Draft Checklist for Identifying Victims of Human Trafficking with GMS

COUNTRY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

Social Development (Anti Human Trafficking):

- Workshop on “Initiatives and Opportunities for Joint Standard Setting on Victim Identification Guidelines and Standard Operating Procedures (SOP)” 12 – 16 June, 2012

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RECOMMENDATIONS AND THE NEXT STEPS

- **Phnom Penh Plan**
 - More diversification on Phnom Penh Plan to better response to the changing needs along the economic corridors
 - Focus on training of trainer in order for trainers to train their people in their own language (tackle the language barrier)
 - Change the target group from government officials to general people in order for the people to reap the benefit of the regional integration
- **Social Development**
 - Intensify the cooperation on anti-human trafficking by cooperating in the area of safe migration
 - Promote the empowerment of women along the border areas through capacity building programs

RECOMMENDATIONS AND THE NEXT STEPS

- **Labour**
 - Skill development and improve the data on labour market
- **Education**
 - Cooperation in education toward the ASEAN Community in 2015

F. Viet Nam

Excellency,
The Head of GMS countries Delegation
Distinguished
Ladies and Gentlemen

First of all, on behalf of the Vietnamese Delegation, I would like to express our sincerely thanks to the Government of Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the Asian Development Bank for organizing the 11th Meeting of the GMS Working Group on Human Resource Development under the GMS Economic Cooperation Program as well as the warmest reception.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As you know that, this year is 20 years of GMS program since the first year of its initiation in 1992 by the ADB and with the strong commitment to participate by the GMS countries and strong support by Donors in and out of the region. During the past 20 years, the world situation has been changing continuously including the GMS however, with great efforts brought by the GMS countries and untired support of the ADB and others Donors, as you have seen and witnessed, the GMS economic cooperation program has gained considerable achievements so far.

We all have recognized that the Human Resources Development plays an important role in country economic development process. The Government of Vietnam has adopted the Human Resources Development strategy by the year 2020. I would like to provide to you the information and updated progress achievement in Social Development sectors in Vietnam as the detailed following:

I. For Health Policy, including HIV/AIDS:

- The HIV epidemic in Viet Nam remains in a concentrated stage. There are signs that it may have begun to stabilize over the recent several years, with a decrease in HIV prevalence among key populations at higher risk such as people who inject drugs (PWID) and female sex workers (FSW).

- Vietnam continuously has effort to combat HIV/AIDS epidemic through (i) increased political commitment and leadership, which have resulted in positive developments in the response; (ii) an increased focus on prevention, leading to progress towards increasing access to HIV services, notably harm-reduction services, and especially methadone maintenance therapy (MMT) for people who inject drugs (PWID); (3) the rapid expansion of antiretroviral therapy (ART) provision; and (4) greater participation of civil society in the national response, with strong community engagement.

- Especially, new *National Strategy on HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control to 2020, with a vision to 2030* was promulgated in May, 2012. Accordingly, four national action plans include: HIV prevention, comprehensive care and treatment of HIV/AIDS, strengthening capacity for HIV/AIDS prevention and control system, HIV/AIDS surveillance, monitoring and evaluation.

II. Education sector:

Plans for training 20,000 PhD students. By the end of 2010, 4,590 staffs, lecturers were already sent to study abroad.

Approval and implementation of “the Vietnamese human resource development strategy” during 2011-2020 period with its overall goal is to increase the percentage of trained manpower from 40% in 2010 to 55% in 2015 and 70% in 2020;

Approval and implementation of the “*Vietnam's National Foreign Languages 2020 Project*” to renovate teaching and learning foreign language within the national education system and to achieve vivid progress on professional skills, language competency for human resources;

Development of some world-class universities under the collaboration and support of some target partners, such as: Germany, the United States, France and the United Kingdom, Worldbank and ADB ... whose goal is to achieve international standards in education and have one of its universities ranked among the top 200 worldwide by 2025;

Implementation of the “Teaching and training for social demands strategy” which links between universities, vocational training centers and industries are being developed, new quality curricula introduced, more private sector participation and international cooperation in training encouraged;

Establishment and conduction of the CLMV (Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam) Scholarship Fund to contribute and support the development of human resources for the CLMV countries, contributing to the Greater Mekong Subregion HRD Cooperation Program.

*** Recommendation:**

- Establishment Employability Skill framework/standards for certain trades/jobs for GMS countries.
- Promotion of Quality assurance and Credit recognition, transfer among GSM enables the mobility of human resource.
- Receiving countries in the region, such as Malaysia, Singapore and Korea, be encouraged through the ASEAN HRDWG to observe and provide feedback on the development and implementation of the framework for mutual recognition of skills and qualifications for migrant workers;
- Establishment a GMS website and database of skilled workers for qualification/certification verification and for sub-regional skills mobilisation planning purposes.

III. Key HRD achievements since last 3 years in Labour and Migration:

1. The New Labour Code (Revision) in June 2012;
2. Strategy of Vocational Training from 2011 to 2020;
3. Project of vocational training, period 2011- 2015;
4. Project on vocational training for rural workers 2011- 2020;
5. National Targeted Programme of Employment 2011-2015;
6. National Targeted Programme of sustainable poverty reduction;
7. The Law of sending Vietnamese workers abroad to work with the contract and limited time.
8. Unemployment Insurance (one chapter in the Law of Social Security) was applied in the country from 1/2010.
9. The Law of human trafficking prevention 2011.
10. Code of conduct for labour exportation Companies.
11. Assessment on the Vocational Training Law implementation in last 5 years and preparation for the revision of this law.

12. Drafting the Employment Law
13. Assessment of the implementation and preparation for revision the Law of sending Vietnamese workers abroad to work with contract and limited time.

In details:

1. Ratification of ILO Convention on employment policy, No 122.
2. Adoption of the new ILO Convention on decent work for domestic workers.
3. Implementation the ILO triangle project on labour migration management in the GMS.
4. Implemented the ILO-EU Project on enhancing access to the labour market through vocational training for workers and labour market information system.
5. Implementation of the IOM project on Assistance for victims of human trafficking and other on improving safe migration from Vietnam through piloting a Center of migration resource.
6. Participating actively in the COMMIT Process and Colombo Process through seminars /workshops.
7. Implementing the new project on Enhancing vocational skills” with the budget of 78 millions of USD from ADB assistance.
8. Participating in the World Skills Competition 2011 in Korea.
9. Organization for Regional Conference on TVET in Hanoi, 10-11/10/2012

Strategic Proposals/Recommendations:

- Study the possibility to approval convention of protection for rights of migrant workers and their family.
- Enhance the regional cooperation on international migration in the GMS countries;
- Improving the sharing experiences in GMS on labour and migration issues.
- Promote the organization of Labour Migration Forum in GMS.
- Improving access of vulnerable groups to basic social services;

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Challenges, opportunities are still a head of us and if we want to gain more achievement, so we need to work together and cooperate more efficiently and try to gain mind and support from Donor Community especially the ADB, so that we can overcome challenges and take advantages of every opportunities to implement GMS projects, programs and activities to be successful. I hope that at this important meeting we will discuss and finalize the draft of Strategic Framework and Action Plan for Human Resource Development in the GMS for officially adopted at the coming GMS 18th Ministerial Meeting.

I wish all of you good health
I wish the Meeting great success.
Thank you very much for your attention.

APPENDIX 5: THE GMS STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK AND ACTION PLAN (SFAP): REVIEW OF SFAP IMPLEMENTATION 2009-2012

1-2 November 2012, Park Royal Hotel, Yangon
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Review of implementation of SFAP 2009-2012

James C. Knowles, HRD Strategy and Program Specialist [Consultant]

Review of implementation of SFAP 2009-2012

The Review is based on the Results Framework in SFAP 2009-2012 (Appendix 3), which includes indicators of:

- Impact (affected by very many other factors)
- Outcomes (affected by some other factors)
- Outputs (most closely dependent on program actions)

Challenges

- Time frame (only 3 years, limited data)
- Unanticipated initiatives and outcomes

Impact

The impact indicator is “More rapid economic growth and poverty reduction”

- Economic growth and poverty reduction has been more rapid in the GMS than in other Southeast Asian developing countries during the period 2009-2011
- The main problem in the GMS is that economic growth and poverty reduction have been uneven, both between countries and within countries

Average annual growth rates in GDP per capita in constant 2005 PPP \$ 2009-2011

Country	Average annual growth rate (%)
Cambodia	~7.0
Lao PDR	~8.0
Myanmar	~5.0
PRC	~10.0
Guangxi/Zhejiang	~12.0
Yunnan	~20.0
Thailand	~5.0
Viet Nam	~7.0
Indonesia	~6.0
Malaysia	~6.0
Philippines	~5.0

Percentage of the population with per capita consumption below national poverty lines

Country	Early 90s (%)	Early 00s (%)	Latest (%)
Cambodia	~45	~35	~15
Lao PDR	~45	~35	~15
Myanmar	~35	~35	~15
PRC	~35	~35	~15
Thailand	~35	~35	~15
Viet Nam	~55	~35	~15
Indonesia	~15	~15	~15
Malaysia	~15	~15	~15
Philippines	~45	~35	~15

Outcomes

- There are 11 outcome indicators in the HRD Results Framework
- The first six outcomes (Nos. 1-6) refer to the current SFAP’s first 4 strategic thrusts (i.e., Education and skills development, Safe labor migration, Communicable disease control, and Social development)
- Data are not available for the first five outcomes
- The sixth outcome has not yet been achieved
- The last five outcome indicators (Nos. 7-11) refer to the fifth strategic thrust: “Strengthening regional institutional links and mechanisms for regional cooperation”
- All but the first of these five program-related outcomes appear to have been achieved

Outcomes 1-6:

1. Skilled workers as a percentage of total intra-GMS migration workers increased
2. Legal migrants as a percentage of total intra-GMS migrants increased
3. The incidence of malaria, dengue fever and HIV and AIDS in GMS border areas decreased
4. The cross-border transmission of HIV and AIDS, avian influenza and other emerging diseases is effectively controlled
5. Cross-border human trafficking decreased
6. Minimum food and drug safety standards are adopted (**not yet achieved**)



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Outcomes 7-11:

7. There is increased continuity in WGHRD and subgroup focal points and in WGHRD meeting participants (**not achieved**)
8. WGHRD initiatives are consistent with the GMS HRD Strategic Framework
9. GMS HRD initiatives are well aligned with national policies and strategies and are complementary to national, other regional and international initiatives
10. ADB's financing of GMS HRD initiatives decreases as a percentage of the total over time
11. The benefits of GMS HRD cooperation are distributed equitably among the GMS countries



-8

Outputs

- There are 30 output indicators in the HRD Results Framework
- In principle, the HRD Program has the greatest degree of control over the output indicators
- Many important outputs have been achieved under each strategic thrust (black text) or are still expected to be achieved (orange text)
- Outputs not achieved have been mostly due either to lack of funding (green text) or to other constraints, despite the availability of funding (red text)



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Outputs: Education and skills development

- Phase 4 of PPP implemented
- Agreement on mutual recognition of competency based qualifications for three core technical and vocational education skill areas (**mostly achieved**)
- Agreement on common standards for specific types of technical and vocational teacher training
- Subregional cooperation supported to improve quality assurance systems in technical and vocational education
- Subregional cooperation supported to improve quality assurance systems in selected higher education institutions
- Subregional cooperation supported to develop secondary level exit standards



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Outputs: Safe labor migration

- Selected activities to improve labor migration management successfully implemented
- Comprehensive information campaign for potential migrant workers successfully implemented in two sending countries
- Proposed subregional standard contract for technically skilled migrant workers developed
- Subregional code of conduct for employment agencies in cross-border employment in the GMS developed and implemented
- Review of current access of GMS migrant workers and their dependents to basic social services in the receiving countries completed
- Review of the status of social security systems covering GMS migrant workers completed
- Agreed labor market information system



-11

Outputs: Communicable disease control

- Subregional projects to control cross-border transmission of diseases, such as HIV and AIDS, malaria, dengue fever and avian influenza successfully implemented
- Review of GMS food and drug safety regulation and implementation of quality assurance systems completed (**partially achieved**)
- Plan for regional collaboration to improve food and drug safety proposed
- Additional outputs not included in the SFAP Results Framework: health forum, GMS/CDC website



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Outputs: Social development

- Subregional projects to reduce human trafficking successfully implemented
- Projects to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS in connection with GMS infrastructure investments successfully implemented (*MOU on HIV/AIDS prevention also signed by GMS countries*)
- Project to reduce the risk of HIV/AIDS infection among vulnerable ethnic minority groups successfully implemented
- Paper documenting the preparation and lessons learned from the development of radio dramas for ethnic minority communities prepared and disseminated widely
- Review of the gender implications of regional economic integration prepared
- GMS Youth Forum successfully conducted in 2011 (not conducted, at the request of the host country)



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Outputs: HRD program strengthening

- WGHRD meetings held every 2 years
- WGHRD and subsector focal points designated in each GMS country
- Representatives of the WGHRD and of the subsector focal points attend WGHRD meetings
- Issues and/or subsector based discussions at WGHRD or separate subsector meetings organized (**partially achieved**)
- Representatives of the WGHRD focal points participate in issues and/or subsector based meetings and in the key meetings of other working groups
- Increased understanding of HRD issues by other GMS working groups
- Strategy and plan for the sustainability of GMS HRD cooperation developed and approved
- GMS HRD Action Plans are consistent with the approved SF and are implemented on a timely basis (**implementation partially achieved**)



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Additional initiatives

- In addition to the initiatives listed in the Action Plan, considerable support for capacity building has been provided by PRC and Thailand
 - PRC has trained 418 young officials to date from Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam
 - Thailand has provided short-term training to 700 officials and scholarships to 70 individuals from Cambodia, Lao PDR and Viet Nam
- PRC has also provided substantial financial support to the GMS HRD program in recent years through its Poverty and Regional Cooperation Fund



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Review of implementation of SFAP 2009-2012: Conclusions

- The Action Plan 2009-2012 has been effectively implemented for three of the five strategic thrusts (i.e., promoting regional cooperation in education and skills development, supporting communicable disease control, and enhancing regional cooperation for social development)
- More progress was made on initiatives closely related to large, ongoing ADB projects
- Less progress was made on initiatives requiring multi-sectoral cooperation (e.g., safe labor migration, food and drug control)



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Review of implementation of SFAP 2009-2012: Conclusions

- Some progress was made in reducing ADB's share of total GMS HRD program funding, including substantial funding provided by PRC through its Poverty and Regional Cooperation Fund
- Lack of continuity in ADB GMS staff and constraints on their time hindered the implementation of several initiatives
- Substantial bilateral assistance in capacity building, including both short-term and long-term training was provided by PRC and Thailand
- Strategic partners, including ILO, IOM, WHO, UNAIDS, UNESCO, AUN and SEAMEO, participated in several initiatives



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Main lessons learned

- A new approach is needed for initiatives that require effective multi-sectoral cooperation
- Strategic partners should become more involved in the program, not only as funders but also in managing initiatives in some areas
- More attention needs to be given to monitoring the progress of SFAP implementation, particularly at the national level



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APPENDIX 6: GMS INITIATIVES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR REGIONAL COOPERATION

(i) Joint Action Plan on the GMS MOU for Joint Action to Reduce HIV Vulnerability Associated with Population Movement

11th Meeting of the GMS Working Group on Human Resource Development (WGHRD-11)

Theme: The GMS HRD Strategic Framework and Action Plan (SFAP) 2013-2017 Responding to Emerging HRD Priorities

Yangon, 1-2 November 2012


Joint Action Plan on the GMS MOU for Joint Action to Reduce HIV Vulnerability Associated with Population Movement

2013-2017

GMS MOU for Joint Action to Reduce HIV Vulnerability Related to Population Movement

Between:

- The Kingdom of Cambodia
- The People’s Republic of China
- The Lao People’s Democratic Republic
- The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
- The Kingdom of Thailand
- The Socialist Republic of Viet Nam



Historical Background of MOU


- First MOU signed in September 2001 in Cambodia
- Second MOU signed in 2004 and expired in 2009
- MOU represented shared understanding among GMS countries that addressing HIV vulnerability, caused by the greater mobility of populations, is a common concern requiring concerted action
- The 9th GMS ADB Meeting of WGHRD in Guilin, 6 GMS countries expressed the need to renew the MOU
- Need to renew the MOU was confirmed in the 3rd GMS Workshop on HIV Prevention and Infrastructure in Vientiane in September 2010

Renewed efforts toward joint action

- In the Vientiane Meeting (Sept 2010), ADB was requested to facilitate the process for renewing the 2004 MOU
- ADB, ASEAN Task Force on AIDS and JUNIMA convened a workshop with GMS countries in Bangkok (April 2011) to review and revise the MOU
- Bangkok Meeting resulted to a working draft of the MOU and Joint Action Plan and agreements on a 5-year timeframe for a new MOU
- Third MOU signed at the GMS Summit in Myanmar in December 2011
- July 2012 Consultation on the MOU to formulate concrete national, bilateral and subregional activities

MOU for Cross-border collaboration

- ▶ To reduce HIV vulnerability;
- ▶ To promote access to prevention, treatment, care and support among migrants and mobile population and affected communities in countries in the GMS.



Third MOU signed at the GMS Summit in Myanmar in December 2011

Areas of Collaboration

- I • **Promote improving policy environment and enabling mechanisms**
- II • **Promote community-based strategies that reduce HIV vulnerability**
- III • **Promote access to HIV and AIDS prevention, treatment, care and support**
- IV • **Monitoring and Evaluation**

COLLABORATION AREA I: PROMOTE ENABLING ENVIRONMENT AND MECHANISMS

Strategy	Key Activities
I-i) Support enabling policy environment to reduce HIV vulnerability, stigma & discrimination, and promote access to prevention, treatment, care and support by improving systems of governance on development-related mobility.	1. Collect evidence to support policy development and share information from research and good practices. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.1 Establish/strengthen of information exchange through effective and efficient repository/database mechanism 1.2 Conduct research studies on migrant and mobile population 1.3 Harmonize country policies and development initiatives
2. Raise awareness and advocate among policy makers for supportive policies. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2.1 Develop advocacy materials and information briefs for policymakers 2.2 Establish a forum for engaging policymakers on HIV, migrants' access to health care, and cross-border cooperation 2.3 Engage media as partner in promoting supportive policy environment for HIV, migrant health and cross-border cooperation 	3. Disseminate and advocate for the implementation of the MOU and JAP at various levels and among relevant sectors <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3.1 Develop advocacy plan with key messages to ensure implementation of the MOU and JAP at various levels targeting relevant sectors 3.2 Develop communication materials on the MOU and JAP in key GMS languages

COLLABORATION AREA I: PROMOTE ENABLING ENVIRONMENT AND MECHANISMS (Cont)

Strategy	Key Activities
I-ii) Strengthen intra- and inter-country multi-sectoral collaboration, including public-private partnership, on HIV vulnerability related to migrants and mobile population at the local, national and regional levels.	4. Facilitate multi-sectoral collaboration at intra- and inter-country levels relevant to mobility-related HIV issues <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4.1 Conduct/organize yearly regional forum among relevant sectors and practitioners to share information, advocacy and best practices 4.2 Optimize existing regional meetings such as ASEAN Summit, ASEAN People's Forum, etc. to include HIV and migrant health issues



COLLABORATION AREA II: TO PROMOTE COMMUNITY-BASED STRATEGIES THAT REDUCE HIV VULNERABILITY

Strategy	Key Activities
II-i) Promote community-based development approaches using people-centered methodologies by empowering communities affected by development-related mobility to prevent HIV infection.	1. Involve communities and key affected population and migrant workers in the planning, implementation and monitoring of interventions <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.1 Undertake participatory studies of source and host communities (to include gender and social networks specific to occupational sites) 1.2 Identify/Map CBOs/NGOs working in affected populations and services available in local communities (host and sending)



COLLABORATION AREA II: TO PROMOTE COMMUNITY-BASED STRATEGIES THAT REDUCE HIV VULNERABILITY (Cont)

Strategy	Key Activities(cont)
II-i) Promote community-based development approaches using people-centered methodologies by empowering communities affected by development-related mobility to prevent HIV infection.	2. Develop and implement activities for affected communities to understand, anticipate and adjust to development factors that contribute to HIV vulnerability resulting from mobility. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2.1 Design/Develop sustained community-managed/based interventions on HIV prevention and migrant population that would also provide link between source and host countries 2.2 Engage CSOs/NGOs in developing/piloting cross-border activities on HIV and migrant population 2.3 Conduct of participatory researches and studies on migrant and mobile population that would inform community-based and cross-border activities, interventions and strategies



COLLABORATION AREA II: TO PROMOTE COMMUNITY-BASED STRATEGIES THAT REDUCE HIV VULNERABILITY (Cont)

Strategy	Key Activities
II-i) Promote community-based development approaches using people-centered methodologies by empowering communities affected by development-related mobility to prevent HIV infection.	3. Strengthen collaboration amongst agencies, including the private sector, involved in and related to development planning and projects/programmes. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3.1 Develop mechanism for public-private partnerships to address HIV and migrant health 3.2 Engage ministries dealing with private corporations hiring migrant workers to integrate HIV and migrant health in the cooperative agreement
II-ii) Enhance information dissemination, education and behavior change communication in HIV/AIDS prevention for the community of migrants and mobile populations.	4.1. Develop and implement localized, culturally-appropriate, target-specific behaviour change framework and plan <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4.2 Based on the results of regional and local studies, develop and disseminate appropriate IEC materials targeting local communities and risk groups

COLLABORATION AREA III: PROMOTE ACCESS TO HIV AND AIDS PREVENTION, TREATMENT, CARE AND SUPPORT	
Strategy	Key Activities
<p>III-i) Promote leadership and political commitment at the community, national and regional levels to improve access to prevention, treatment, care and support.</p> 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conduct dialogues between sending and receiving countries on access to prevention, treatment, care and support services for migrants and mobile population. 1.1 Establish bilateral and/or subregional coordination and cooperation at cross-border for prevention and treatment programs for migrant population 1.2 Establish bilateral prevention systems

COLLABORATION AREA III: PROMOTE ACCESS TO HIV AND AIDS PREVENTION, TREATMENT, CARE AND SUPPORT (Cont)	
Strategy	Key Activities
<p>III-ii) Support Strategies that ensure access to comprehensive HIV and AIDS prevention, treatment, care and support for migrant and mobile populations</p> 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Develop a joint mechanism for provision of quality care, including ART and referral system for migrants and mobile population. 2.1 Conduct bilateral and subregional technical meetings to develop a joint mechanism to propose a draft protocol of a referral system for HIV quality care 2.2. Bilateral coordination regarding treatment regimes for migrants 3. Develop joint programs for provision of prevention, care and support services for migrants and mobile population. 3.1 Develop innovative collaborative country-country initiatives to promote access to HIV and AIDS prevention and treatment for mobile and migrant population

COLLABORATION AREA IV : MONITORING AND EVALUATION	
Strategy	Key Activities
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Use the annual meetings of the focal points for monitoring the progress of the implementation of the MOU Action Plan 2. Establish an M&E framework to review progress in the implementation of the MOU 3. Establish reporting mechanism to the signatories of the MOU 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review progress and identify follow up actions in annual meetings of focal points, held either independently or in conjunction with the annual meetings of ATFOA, JUNIMA, ADB, others • Develop M&E tools in line with the activities of the Joint Action Plan • Define M&E framework, baseline, indicators and assumptions for the MOU-JAP • Conduct Joint Review of progress in implementing the MOU • Report to the biennial ASEAN Health Ministers Meeting plus China, or alternative meeting as required • Establish functional secretariat for the MOU operationalization.. • Provide adequate secretariat support to MOU signatories



APPENDIX 7: GMS HIGHER EDUCATION HARMONIZATION AND NETWORKING

(a) Building a Common Credit Transfer System for GMS and beyond



Building a Common Credit Transfer System for GMS and beyond

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Sauwakon Ratanawijitrasin
Director
SEAMEO RIHED

11th Meeting of the GMS Working Group on Human Resource Development
1 – 2 November 2012, Yangon

CURRENT TRENDS:

- Impact of globalization → rapid changes in regional socio-economy
- ASEAN Community—Regional Integration
- Increasing awareness of internationalization in higher education
- Student mobility— Increasing flow of students across borders stimulates the dynamics of workforce in the region

NEED:

- Graduates with global outlook and trans-system competency
- Education that serves all the 3 pillars of ASEAN Community++
- Create Education Common Space --a common credit transfer system is needed as an enabling mechanism

Action Research in four phases



Act 1 Explore
Act 2 Experiment
Act 3 Experience
Act 4 Expand

supported by ADB Asian Development Bank

Phase 1: Explore -- Objectives

- ✓ Compare Credit Transfer Systems (CTS) worldwide
- ✓ Assess existing CTS in the region
- ✓ Describe stakeholders' perceptions (E.g. effectiveness, accessibility, etc.) in the region
- ✓ Propose a CTS scheme fit for GMS and beyond (Participatory, voluntary, effective)

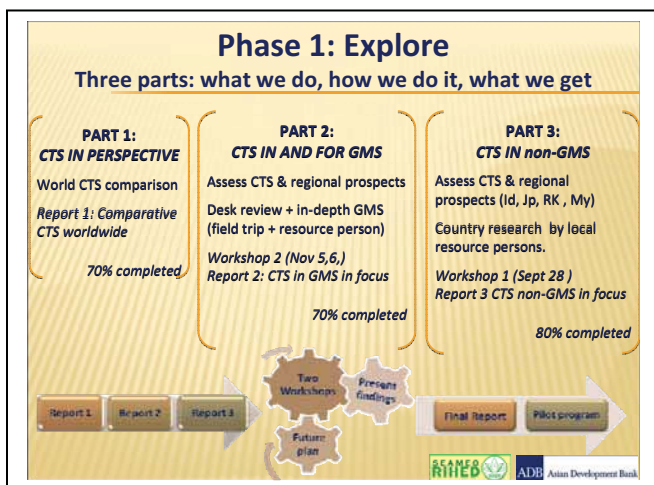
RECOGNIZING THE DIFFERENCES IN

- Readiness of member countries
- Readiness of different HEIs
- Relationship between government and HEIs in member countries

Phase 1: Explore

Three parts: what we do, how we do it, what we get

PART 1: CTS IN PERSPECTIVE	PART 2: CTS IN AND FOR GMS	PART 3: CTS IN non-GMS
World CTS comparison Report 1: Comparative CTS worldwide 70% completed	Assess CTS & regional prospects Desk review + in-depth GMS (field trip + resource person) Workshop 2 (Nov 5,6) Report 2: CTS in GMS in focus 70% completed	Assess CTS & regional prospects (Id, Jp, Rk, My) Country research by local resource persons. Workshop 1 (Sept 28) Report 3 CTS non-GMS in focus 80% completed



Report 1 Report 2 Report 3 Two Workshops Present findings Future plan Final Report Pilot program

SEAMEO RIHED ADB Asian Development Bank

Phase 2: Experiment – Pilot Project

- Develop practical mechanisms that will facilitate mutual recognition for identified fields
- Multiple mechanisms with different requirements and degrees of application may be called for
- Groupings based on readiness
- 'Fair recognition' rather than perfect match as first step

Phase 3: Experience

- Identify factors that enable and constrain the achievement of mutual recognition
- Relate context, content and process

Phase 4: Expand

- Draw from lessons learned on action research to develop policies and mechanisms for **broad** implementation of academic mutual recognition in Southeast Asian region
- Approaches can be:
 - Policy guided
 - Policy supported
 - or both



(b) AUN: Quality Assurance Network

AUN-Quality Assurance Network



AUN-QA: The Development

Initiated
by the 4th AUN Board of Trustee Meeting In 1998.

Aims
to develop QA network as mechanism to uplift and enhance higher education standard among the members.

AUN-QA : Core Activities

- The AUN-QA Chief Quality Officers' Meeting
- The AUN-QA Actual Quality Assessment
- The AUN-QA Training Course for Accomplishing Programme Assessment

The AUN-QA Chief Quality Officers' Meeting

Objectives:

- To discuss the relevance and dynamics of AUN-QA systems and mechanisms.
- To continue the revision of a better AUN-QA management.



The AUN-QA Actual Quality Assessment

- 36 undergraduate programme of 7 AUN Member Universities were assessed.
- Certificate validated for 4 years presented upon completing the programme assessment.



The AUN-QA Training Course for Accomplishing Programme Assessment

- Introduce the AUN-QA system and enhance the QA at the university.
- Aimed to provide professionals who are in charge of quality assurance at programme and/ or institutional level.



The recognition of AUN-QA

- AUN-QA System
 - standard QA system practiced within the AUN Member Universities.
 - recognized by the ASEAN Plus Three Senior Officials Meeting on Education (SOM-ED+3) and ASEAN Plus Three Education Ministers Meeting (ASED+3).



Expansion of AUN-QA

- AUN-QA Actual Quality Assessment extension to Non- AUN Member Universities
- The AUN-QA Training Course for Accomplishing Programme Assessment for Member and Non-AUN Member Universities
- ASEAN-QA Project (supported by DAAD, HRK)
- The Enhancement of AUN-QA System Implementation in Universities in CLM Countries Project (supported by Asian Development Bank)

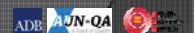


Status Report: The Enhancement of AUN-QA System Implementation in Universities in CLM Countries Project



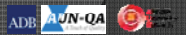
Objectives

- Enhance and strengthen the knowledge on QA system implementation and management particularly based on AUN-QA system
- Build up qualified University QA personnel team in CLM countries
- Establish QA system to leverage the quality of education management in CLM countries
- Assist University QA personnel team to conduct and prepare Self-Assessment Report (SAR) at programme level



Outputs

- A network of QA personnel who have adequate understanding of QA
- Series of workshops/training organized in CLM countries from participated CQOs
- The establishment of AUN-QA network in the ASEAN region



Time Table of Activities: Year 2012

Countries	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV
Lao PDR	1 st Training 7-10 Aug			2 nd Training 12-15 Nov
Cambodia	1 st Training 28-31 Aug			2 nd Training 19-22 Nov
Myanmar	1 st Training 28-31 Aug			2 nd Training 4-7 Dec



Project status Report

- In Lao PDR, 32 trainees from 2 Universities, NUOL and UHS attended the 1st training workshop.
- In Cambodia, 26 trainees from 5 universities and Accreditation Committee of Cambodia, attended the 1st training workshop.
- In Myanmar, 30 Trainees from 7 universities attended the 1st training workshop.
 - Cascade AUN-QA Training was organised by the trainees to 68 teaching staffs from 17 universities shortly after the first training workshop in Myanmar.
- Most of the trainees from the 1st training have submitted the Self-Assessment Report and now prep. For the 2nd training workshop in November and December, 2012.

Cascade Training in Myanmar



3-Year Proposal on Strengthening Capacity of University Quality Assurance System towards Uplifting Higher Education Quality in GMS Countries



Objective

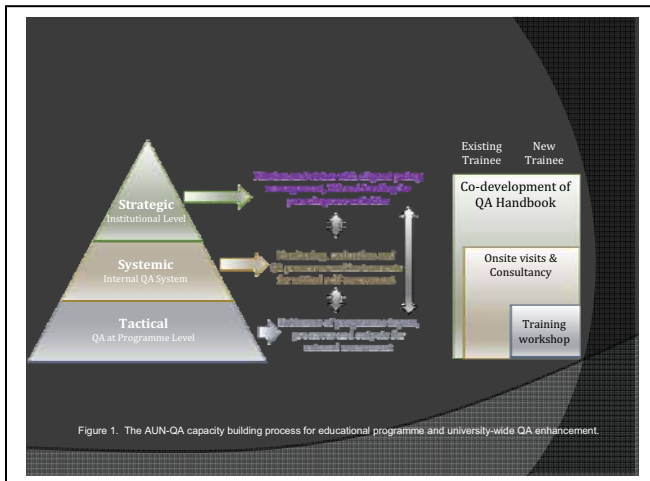
- Support a process that builds country and stakeholder engagement and draws on national and international expertise in QA,
- Enhance and strengthen the knowledge on QA system implementation and management,
- Build up the pool of qualified University QA personnel,
- Establish QA system and ensure QA implementation to leverage the quality of education management in CLM countries, and
- Provide countries with higher education quality recognition in order to harmonize university QA system and ensure applicability across ASEAN.

Training Methodology

- On-site consultancy and training coupled with training workshops and site visit are the key activities of project implementation to achieve the direct and indirect impacts and outcomes from the series of activities.

Training Methodology: The Two-track approach

- First track
 - Involves the trainees who have completed 2012 AUN-QA Training Workshop
 - On-site consultancy and training (annually) at each university would be needed to assist them in establishing QA instruments and systems in their respective universities
 - At the end of the 3-year project, a QA handbook will be produced by these universities.
- Second track
 - Train and expand the QA personnel capacity of the new trainees.
 - Similar training workshops in 2012 would be held for these universities, to bring the level of QA knowledge on par with those universities that have been trained earlier.
 - As a result, raising QA personnel capacity and uplifting the level of quality of university education across the country.



Outcomes/Outputs

- Participating universities will have an established QA instruments and systems and have enough competent QA personnel to manage the QA system at their own universities.
- Documentation of a QA handbook at each participating university.
- A network of 240 (inclusive of 90 QA Trainees from 2012 batch) QA personnel who have adequate understanding of QA in each country.
- 5 Batches of 15 training workshops for total of 150 QA personnel who will have competency for implementing QA system at their own university or faculty.
- The establishment of an AUN-QA network in the GMS with linkage with the ASEAN region

THANK YOU



APPENDIX 8: PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP (PPP) IN TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING (TVET)

Public-private Partnerships in TVET

11th GMS Working Group on HRD (WGHRD-11)
Park Royal Hotel
November 1, 2012
Yangon, Myanmar

Norman LaRocque
Senior Education Specialist
Asian Development Bank
nlarocque@adb.org



ADB

One of the major weaknesses in developing Asian countries' skill development system is lack of industry participation and ownership in training. The vast majority of firms are small and medium sized ones and their investment in training is insufficient... [O]n the other hand public sector training provision is often supply-oriented with weak links to demand.

- Skill Development Pathways in Asia,
OECD, 2012

ADB

Context

- Skills development increasingly seen as key contributor to economic growth – impact on innovation and productivity
- Increasing and changing demand for skills in Asia:
 - New industries/FDI
 - New technologies
 - Changing nature of work
 - Government strategy/policy
 - Rapid economic growth
- Increasing diversification of TVET supply:
 - Apprenticeships
 - Institutes of technology
 - Rise of the private sector
 - Fee-paying public institutes
 - Franchises

ADB

TVET Challenges

- Poor perception of TVET
- Access disparities and gender-based segregation
- High cost of TVET delivery
- Weak link between formal and informal TVET
- Outdated regulatory and funding frameworks
- Lack of practical focus
- Poor quality/relevance of training
- Low private and public sector investment in TVET
- TVET oversight fragmentation



Firms' Feedback on Skills Supply and Demand, 2006-2009

Indicator	Cambodia	Lao PDR	Thailand	Viet Nam
Share of Unskilled Workers Reported by Firms	25.7	N/A	83.5	20.8
Firms Offering Formal Training to Workers	48.3	11.1	75.3	43.5
Firms Reporting Workforce Skills as a Major Constraint	15.5	18.7	38.4	8.9

Source: Reprinted in *Matching Aspirations: Skills for Implementing Cambodia's Growth Strategy*, World Bank, 2012, p. 5

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Firms Reporting TVET Graduates Have Skills to Perform Their Jobs, Cambodia, 2009

Economic Sector	Yes	Yes But Not All Skills	No
Construction	20	47	33
Garment	-	93	7
Hospitality	33	50	17
Total	19	63	19

Source: *Providing Skills for Equity and Growth*, World Bank, 2010, p. 22

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Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs)

- Bring together strengths of public and private sectors
- May involve private delivery and/or private financing
- PPPs differ from 'traditional' model involving public financing and public delivery
- Key elements:
 - Government contracts private sector to deliver a service
 - Focus on outputs/outcomes, not inputs
 - Ultimate responsibility remains with public sector
 - Arrangement often based on explicit contract
 - Risk transfer to, and performance requirement for, private provider.

ADB

Potential Benefits of PPPs in TVET

- Potential benefits from PPPs including:
 - Increased financial resources for TVET sector
 - Increased access to TVET
 - Overcome public service operating restrictions - eg. obsolete salary scales, restrictive civil service work rules
 - Increased relevance of TVET programs
 - Bring new skills to the TVET sector
 - Good instrument for targeting assistance – eg. girls/women
 - Sustainability of outcomes
- Need well-designed policy framework and institutional governance to implement effectively

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Classifying PPPs in TVET

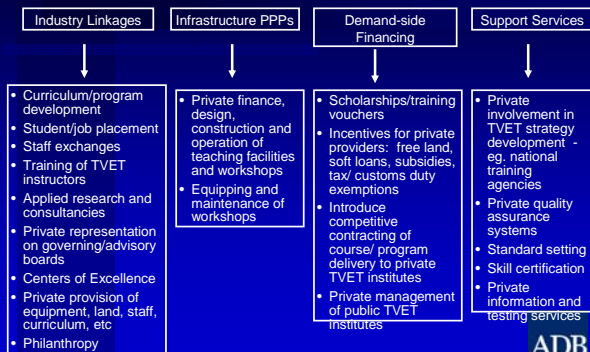
- PPPs widely used around the world at all levels of education
- PPPs can involve private sector contributing to public sector and vice versa
- Many different forms of PPP:
 - Industry linkages
 - Infrastructure PPPs
 - Demand-side financing initiatives
 - TVET support services

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Classifying PPPs in TVET



ADB

Strengthening Technical and Vocational Education and Training Project, Lao PDR

- Significant use of PPPs in project design:
 - Training assistance voucher program for public and private institutes
 - Strengthened industry involvement in development of skill standards/curriculum
 - Contracting with private firms to deliver training in high cost skill areas
 - Direct contracting with private TVET institutes for delivery of courses/programs



Strengthening Technical and Vocational Education and Training Project, Lao PDR

- Significant use of PPPs in project design:
 - Establish advisory boards at public TVET institutes (25% private sector 25% female)
- Considerable gender focus in project:
 - Advisory board representation
 - Quotas for vouchers and contracted training
 - Non-traditional TVET fields
 - Job subsidies for female voucher graduates
 - Hostel occupancy quotas



Penang Skills Development Center, Malaysia

- Established 1989
- Industry-led training center
- Located within the Free Industrial Zones
- Tripartite model - industry, academia, government
- Provides training and educational programs, advice on technological progress
- Courses from Certificate to Masters level
- 150,000+ trainees to date



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Penang Skills Development Center, Malaysia

- Private and public finance
- Registered as an Institution of Higher Learning and Private Higher Education Institution in Malaysia
- Pool resources of 4 Free Trade Zones and 4 Industrial Estates in Penang (775 factories, 170,000+ workers)
- Private sector managed
- Not-for-profit entity



ADB

Proposed Lao National Institute of Tourism and Hospitality PPP, Vientiane, Lao PDR

- Not-for-profit training institute
- Curriculum benchmarked on ASEAN good practice and competency standards
- Key elements:
 - Government of Lao provides free land to LuxDevelopment
 - LuxDevelopment constructs and operates training institute on ½ of land
 - Private company operates commercial hotel on other ½ of land under concession from Government – no lease payment
 - Payment in lieu of lease payment made by hotel operator directly to training institute to finance its operation
 - Training institute financed by tuition fees, hotel revenue and other revenues

ADB

The mobilisation of the private sector is a priority for ensuring market relevant training, particularly in new and emerging industries. The private sector is expected to have an extensive and potentially growing role not only in financing but in providing skills training... [C]reating appropriate regulatory environments and policy instruments to augment private sector participation are important priorities ...

- Shanti Jagannathan, ADB, 2012

ADB

ADB Education Website

www.adb.org/education



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APPENDIX 9: TOWARDS A REGIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR LABOR MIGRATION COOPERATION IN THE GMS



11th Meeting of the GMS Working Group on Human Resource Development (WGHRD-11)

Towards a Regional Framework for Labor Migration Cooperation in the GMS

Department of Migration Management
IOM
Migration for the Benefit of All

Yuko Hamada
Senior Labour Migration/Migration and Specialist
International Organization for Migration

Yangon, Myanmar
1 November 2012

Outline

1. Current labor migration trends
2. Issues and challenges
3. Regional Framework for Labor Migration Cooperation in the GMS

Department of Migration Management
IOM
Migration for the Benefit of All



1. Current labor migration trends


GMS is a single, though composite, economic entity linking less developed countries to stronger ones.

Migration is driven by uneven development patterns, demographic parameters and existing regional links

Migration is facilitated by governance issues, political factors, porosity of the borders with overlapping populations

Interdependent forms of intra-GMS labour migration: international, internal, border mobility

Overview of intra-GMS migration




- 500,000 in the region; more than 60% in Thailand – difficult to estimate due to high irregular migration
- Mostly low-skilled (agriculture, fisheries, construction, domestic work); trainees from Viet Nam
- Limited data makes it difficult to analyze
- High levels of irregular migration → expensive, difficult

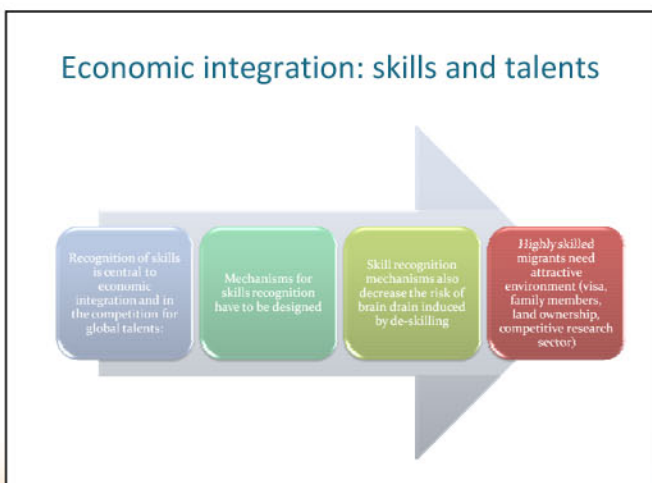
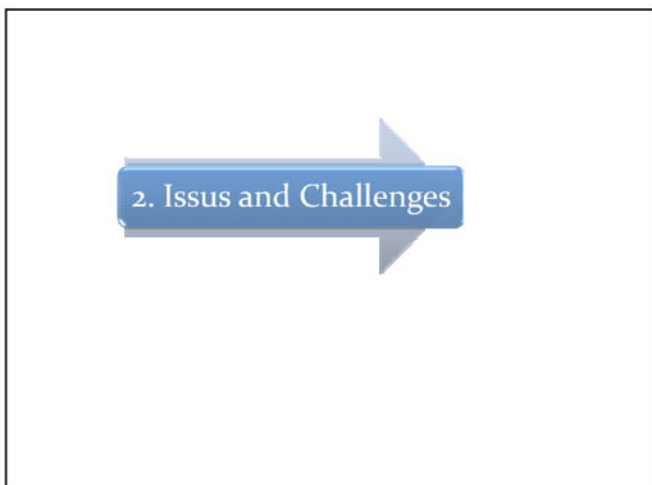
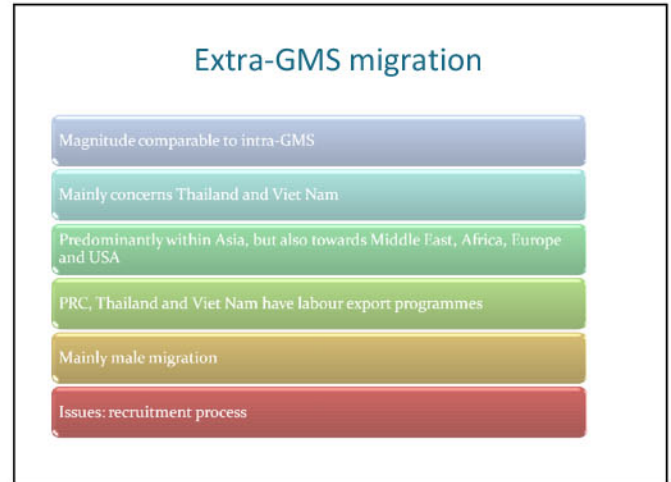
Department of Migration Management
IOM
Migration for the Benefit of All

Border Mobility

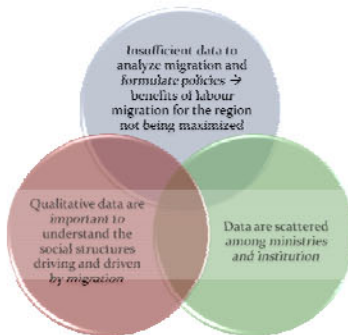
New concept introduced in this paper



- Opportunities skills acquisition, further international migration
- Directly results from the creation of GMS corridors and dynamic border check points. Related to formal and informal trade
- At the interface between internal and international migration
- Border towns become trading centres attracting migrants from bordering countries
- Hardly quantifiable, as mainly informal
- Moves very quickly: flows and vulnerability



Knowledge gap



3. Regional Framework for Labor Migration Cooperation in the GMS

Labour mobility and regional development



Increase protection mechanisms for migrants in cross-border settings

- Conduct labor awareness campaigns
- Set up monitoring and evaluation mechanisms
- Provide pre-departure and pre-employment orientation through Migrant Resource Center and other existing public and private facilities
- Develop user-friendly information materials on existing legal instruments

Strengthen capacity and legal framework in managing labor migration in the GMS

- Conduct expert-level review in analyzing implementation of existing MOU in the subregion
- Conduct capacity building training
- Introduce monitoring system at the migrant workers' work places can be encouraged
- Review inspection capacities of relevant ministries and develop standard operating procedures
- Develop a guide to improve coordination mechanisms among different ministries dealing with migration
- Develop a subregional labor market information system to capture and analyze market trends

Enhance social protection for migrants and their families

- Review access to basic social services for migrant workers and their families in countries of destination
- Develop network support systems for migrants and their families
- Conduct information campaigns for migrants and migrants families
- Conduct awareness raising programs for migrant workers in regards to the right to create associations and unions in order to claim their rights

Promote Ethical Recruitment and Employment

- Review existing framework to regulate recruitment agencies and identify key obstacles to minimize migration costs
- Assess lessons learnt to identify good practices which exist in the subregion that reduce costs incurred through recruitment phases
- Organize workshop for representatives of private recruitment agencies to promote ethical recruitment practices

Strengthen Return and Reintegration Support to Migrants

- Review support mechanisms for return and reintegration
- Develop schemes to recognize skills obtained from countries of destination
- Conduct a pilot project to provide counseling and vocational training assistance to migrants upon their return, which allow countries of origin to harness the skills that migrants acquire while working abroad
- Provide a certification programme for migrants to obtain certified skills while working

Increase Knowledge Management Mechanisms

- Organize an expert-level meeting to identify research gaps in understanding and analyzing the socio and economic impacts of migration such as those impacts upon demography, labor market information, and political drift
- Assess the impact and utilization of remittance and knowledge sharing on products and services related to remittance channeling and utilization in the subregion
- Conduct research in order to analyze the impact of border mobility and suggest policy recommendations
- Develop information system to capture migration flows on cross border mobility

"chei-zu tin-bar-te" !



Yuko Hamada

Senior Regional Labor
Migration/Migration and
Development Specialist
International Organization
for Migration (IOM)
Regional Office for Asia and
the Pacific
E-mail: yhamada@iom.int

APPENDIX 10: REGIONAL HEALTH ISSUES IN A CHANGING GLOBAL LANDSCAPE

Regional Health Challenges in a Changing Global Landscape

Vincent de Wit
Lead Health Specialist
SERD/ADB

Presentation

- Health Trends
- Drivers of Change
- Global Challenges
- Regional Priorities

Health MDGs: Individual Country Performance

Goal	East & North-East Asia	South-East Asia	South & South-West Asia	North & Central Asia	Pacific
1 Underweight children	China, Hong Kong, Macao, DPR Korea, South Korea, Mongolia	Brunei Darussalam, Lao PDR, Indonesia, Philippines, Myanmar, Thailand, Timor-Leste	Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Sri Lanka, Pakistan	Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan	Fiji, Kiribati, Cook Islands, Niue, Samoa, Tokelau, Tuvalu, Vanuatu
4 Infant mortality	China, Hong Kong, Macao, DPR Korea, South Korea, Mongolia	Brunei Darussalam, Lao PDR, Indonesia, Philippines, Myanmar, Thailand, Timor-Leste	Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Sri Lanka, Pakistan	Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan	Fiji, Kiribati, Cook Islands, Niue, Samoa, Tokelau, Tuvalu, Vanuatu
5 Maternal care (1 visit or more)	China, Hong Kong, Macao, DPR Korea, South Korea, Mongolia	Brunei Darussalam, Lao PDR, Indonesia, Philippines, Myanmar, Thailand, Timor-Leste	Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Sri Lanka, Pakistan	Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan	Fiji, Kiribati, Cook Islands, Niue, Samoa, Tokelau, Tuvalu, Vanuatu
6 HIV prevalence	China, Hong Kong, Macao, DPR Korea, South Korea, Mongolia	Brunei Darussalam, Lao PDR, Indonesia, Philippines, Myanmar, Thailand, Timor-Leste	Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Sri Lanka, Pakistan	Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan	Fiji, Kiribati, Cook Islands, Niue, Samoa, Tokelau, Tuvalu, Vanuatu
TB prevalence	China, Hong Kong, Macao, DPR Korea, South Korea, Mongolia	Brunei Darussalam, Lao PDR, Indonesia, Philippines, Myanmar, Thailand, Timor-Leste	Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Sri Lanka, Pakistan	Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan	Fiji, Kiribati, Cook Islands, Niue, Samoa, Tokelau, Tuvalu, Vanuatu
Safe drinking water	China, Hong Kong, Macao, DPR Korea, South Korea, Mongolia	Brunei Darussalam, Lao PDR, Indonesia, Philippines, Myanmar, Thailand, Timor-Leste	Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Sri Lanka, Pakistan	Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan	Fiji, Kiribati, Cook Islands, Niue, Samoa, Tokelau, Tuvalu, Vanuatu
Basic sanitation	China, Hong Kong, Macao, DPR Korea, South Korea, Mongolia	Brunei Darussalam, Lao PDR, Indonesia, Philippines, Myanmar, Thailand, Timor-Leste	Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Sri Lanka, Pakistan	Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan	Fiji, Kiribati, Cook Islands, Niue, Samoa, Tokelau, Tuvalu, Vanuatu

Life Expectancy Trends

- Global LE is currently around 67 years
- From prehistory to 1900th LE was 30-40 years
- Mainly due to about 75% child mortality
- From age 15 life expectancy was already 50+
- Fluctuations due to epidemics, war, starvation
- 1400th pest epidemic killed 30% of Europeans
- HIV/AIDS can reduce LE in half (Botswana)

What Improved Life Expectancy

- Following industrial revolution, CMR halved, most of it due to **improved public health** including personal hygiene, nutrition, and prevention and treatment of infections
- But LE also increased because of **lower fertility** (as children were surviving)
- And because there are fewer young people (**change in denominator**), so actual gain is much less than claimed by Governments

Future: Communicable Diseases

- Based on trends in the USA, it is predicted that communicable diseases will again become the dominant cause of ill health and mortality in the world. Science is advancing on chronic diseases, but bugs are advancing on us.
- Even if BOD is low, investment is needed to fight against CDs.
- New communicable diseases emerge each year, but only once in 10 years or so is there a serious new infection that can cause a pandemic. These can cause major economic and health impact
- Influenza like illnesses (ILI) remain perhaps the most serious health threat. New studies: influenza vaccines offer limited protection for the vulnerable

Superbugs

- Margaret Chan, DG WHO: things as common as strep throat or a child's scratched knee could once again kill 2012. Antimicrobial resistance is on the rise... for patients infected with some drug-resistant pathogen, mortality has shown to increase by around 50%. Hospitals have become hotbeds for highly resistant pathogens like MRSA, ESBL, and CPE, increasing the risk that hospitalization kills instead of cures. This will be a post-antibiotic era. In terms of new replacement antibiotics, the pipeline is virtually dry, especially for gram-negative bacteria. The cupboard is nearly bare.
- Drugs for erectile dysfunction, baldness and cholesterol are ten times more profitable than antibiotics. There is little effort of Big Pharma in developing new drugs and vaccines, in particular for tropical diseases and infections.

Zoonoses Bring New Infections

- Zoonotic infections are infections of animals that are naturally transmissible to humans (John M. Goldsmid)
- Total about 150
- Viral: Hemorrhagic Fevers, Chikungunya, Japanese Encephalitis, Bunya, Yellow Fever, Avian Influenza, Rabies
- Others: Bacterial, Mycotic, Protozoan, Helminthic, Arthropods

Quality of Life Matters, also for CDC

- Non-communicable diseases (NCDs) are related to new drivers of health
- Environment/Pollution
 - Lifestyle, Work-Life Balance/Stress, Addiction
 - Nutrition, Food Quality, Misuse of Medicine
 - Exposure to Modern Media and Urban Lifestyle
- These in turn weaken immune systems and cause more communicable diseases
- These also require more hospitalization with increasing risk of multi-resistant infections
- Need to better understand and monitor impact of NCDs and Quality of Life dimensions on CDs

Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs)

- NCDs increasing due to aging and exposure
- NCDs are largely not inherited but epigenetic expression (environmental)
- About 50% of a given population in developed countries will develop heart disease, 30% cancer, 20% neurological and skeletal diseases, and 20% endocrine and fertility disabilities
- Largely unknown impact of corporate food, chemicals, medicines, vaccines, waves

Universal Health Coverage

- Health spending is perhaps the most important reason for families to slip into poverty
- Global health spending is about 10% of GDP, \$1000 per capita, 16% of government spending
- Universal Health Coverage will hopefully be a Post MDG priority as discussed at Rio
- Either tax-based or social health insurance
- Assumes quality of care can be provided
- Assumes healthy families (willing to) contribute

Universal Health Services

- Health system coverage has improved worldwide
- **But** quality of care is mixed: a major public health risk
 - Overcrowding of national and provincial services
 - Insufficient controls on medical interventions
 - Poor infectious diseases control in hospitals
 - Prevention, rural poor neglected due to high demand
 - Fragmented management of services
- GMS countries in different stages of reform
Potential for GMS cooperation in capacity building

Global Quality Standards

- Countries increasingly adopt and develop standards of quality care and public health administration, such as standards of services, public knowledge, clinical care pathways, annual operational planning and budgeting etc
- Possible reasons:
 - increasing drug resistance due to misuse of medicine
 - more complex chronic diseases needing follow up
 - increased travel and medical shopping
 - Increased legal liability

Global Public Goods

- There are strong economic arguments for Governments and partners supporting public goods:
- Control of Emerging Diseases (IHR)
 - Roll-out regional CDC strategies
 - Standard setting
 - Knowledge sharing and education
 - Research and Development

Global Climate Change

Causes:

- population increase (6 billion people /100 yrs);
- increase in livestock;
- increased welfare and consumption
- inefficient use of resources

Health sector:

- Mitigate extreme weather conditions
- Vector control: malaria, dengue

Health Sector Priorities in the Region

- Improved prevention of CDs, NCDs, RTAs
- Universal access to basic quality care
- Universal health coverage
- Increased public health financing
- Managed private sector development
- Increased Government effort in sector monitoring and reform
- Increased research and development

GMS Health Sector Priorities

GMS support in the health sector has focused on CDC: EDs, HIV, Dengue, NTDs

Provincial staff training and village capacity building is also supported

For future GMS priorities, GMS Countries may consider:

- Political priority
- National and regional relevance
- Risks and possible health impact
- Indirect benefits, e.g., trade, tourism
- Solutions and feasibility of implementation
- Available funding

ASIA PACIFIC STRATEGY FOR THE CONTROL OF EMERGING DISEASES

APSED Strategic Area	Implementation Progress
Surveillance, Risk Assessment* and Response	Surveillance and response systems, post SARS and AI, have much improved and expanded in all countries. Some delay in reporting from community level especially in remote locations. Risk assessment is a relatively underdeveloped field.
Laboratory Services	Basic laboratory services are slowly improving. Problems are affordability for the poor, staff capacity, quality control, supplies
Zoonoses Control	System for cooperation between animal health and health in place but limited action, mainly some information exchange
Infection Prevention and Control (including hospitals)	Insufficient effort to improve hospital infection control, managed by antibiotics rather than hygiene, few have dedicated staff
Risk communications	Has improved, in particular also linked to general emergencies
Public health emergency preparedness*	Mixed depending on which sector. No hospital surge capacity. Generally not so well prepared for major outbreaks
Regional Preparedness, Alert and Response*	Still weak due to sensitivities and limited information exchange. Some cooperation in sharing know how and technology
Monitoring*	Data being collecting are often not used locally and analysis at national level is limited. WHO is starting up capacity building.


APSED 2005, *APSED 2010

IMPLEMENTATION OF OTHER REGIONAL STRATEGIES	
Strategic Area	Implementation Progress
HIV/AIDS	Slowing down or reduction of epidemic in other countries but increasing risk factors including economic corridors, increased income and inequity, injecting drug use, and social changes
Tuberculosis	Control doing quite well, vulnerable due to GF dependence
Malaria	Malaria still major problem in forested border areas, control doing quite well, vulnerable to GF dependence, some x-border coop
Dengue	Dengue expanding into rural areas along economic corridors, community and vector control strategies are less effective, vaccines not ready, better case management has reduced deaths
Neglected Tropical Diseases	Some diseases close to eradication or control, schistosomiasis spreading needs x-border cooperation
Food safety	General improvement in food standards, quality control and trade facilitation but risk factors remain
Pharmaceuticals	Increase in counterfeit drugs to about 10%, 50% in malaria, drug resistant bugs spreading due to misuse of antibiotics
Health System Strengthening	WHO efforts in setting standards, regional capacity building, and regional monitoring but limited inter-country collaboration
Health Financing	Limited coverage of the poor, no x-border arrangements, gaps in financing public goods and NCDs, partners are pulling out

Regional Public Health Spending

- Government health spending in Asia, with some exception, has been historically low as a percentage of GDP compared to Africa and LA
- Low income countries that need it most have mostly low domestic spending on health
- Middle income countries in transition see funding and technical assistance for reforms drying up
- Other Issues:
 - political priority of Government and donors for infrastructure/symbolic investment
 - limited public solidarity for health insurance
 - weak planning and administration

APPENDIX 11: THE GMS HRD STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK AND ACTION PLAN 2013-2017




1-2 November 2012, Park Royal Hotel, Yangon
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

HRD Action Plan 2013-2017

Yasushi Hirotsato, Principal Education Specialist, SEHS, ADB

2 November 2012 (Session 3)



HRD Action Plan

- ❑ The Action Plan is organized according to the seven strategic thrusts (STs) presented in the HRD Strategic Framework 2013-2017.
- ❑ The Action Plan includes the pipeline of existing and planned projects as well as other proposed initiatives arising from consultations held with all six GMS countries and strategic partners
- ❑ The Action Plan reflects the priorities presented in the STs as well as Myanmar's eligibility to participate in new projects, including investment projects.
- ❑ Numerous synergies exist between the initiatives included in the Action Plan.
- ❑ The Action Plan is a living document and subject to refinement and adjustment as the WGHRD may deem appropriate.



-2

ST #1: Capacity Development in the economic corridors


- ❑ Building capacity of GMS government officials in development management
 - Phnom Penh Plan (PPP) for Development Management (Phase 5)
 - Review of GMS capacity building activities



-3

ST #2: Cooperation in TVET


- ❑ Developing and implementing skills recognition frameworks
 - Development and piloting a framework for the mutual recognition of technical and vocational skills in the GMS (Phase 2) (managed by ILO)
 - Extension of the technical skills and qualifications recognition frameworks to additional skills (managed by ILO)



-4

ST #2: Cooperation in TVET


- ❑ Developing and implementing skills recognition frameworks
 - Development and piloting a framework for the mutual recognition of technical and vocational skills in the GMS (Phase 2) (managed by ILO)
 - Extension of the technical skills and qualifications recognition frameworks to additional skills (managed by ILO)



-4

ST #3: Cooperation in higher education and research

- ❑ Strengthening GMS higher education
 - GMS higher education harmonization and networking (Phase 2) (managed by AUN and SEAMEO-RIHED)
 - Cooperation and development in higher education in the economic corridors
- ❑ Strengthening GMS research capacity
 - Support the establishment a GMS knowledge platform



-5

ST #4: Addressing regional health issues

- Strengthening communicable disease control in the GMS
 - GMS Communicable Disease Control Project (Phase 2) (ongoing)
 - GMS dengue control project
- GMS food and drugs safety
 - GMS regional food and drugs safety assessment and plan (managed by WHO and in collaboration with the GMS Working Group on Agriculture)



-7

ST #4: Addressing regional health issues

- Strengthening communicable disease control in the GMS
 - GMS Communicable Disease Control Project (Phase 2) (ongoing)
 - GMS dengue control project
- GMS food and drugs safety
 - GMS regional food and drugs safety assessment and plan (managed by WHO and in collaboration with the GMS Working Group on Agriculture)



-7

ST #5: Facilitating safe cross-border labor migration

- Protecting the rights of cross-border migrants
 - Improving the flow of information to cross-border labor migrants in sending countries (Phase 2) (managed by IOM)
- Improving labor migration management in the GMS
 - Capacity building in labor migration management (managed by IOM)
- Enhancing social protection for migrant workers in the GMS
 - Improving access of cross-border migrant workers to basic social services



-9

ST #6: Mitigating social costs in the economic corridors

- HIV/AIDS prevention
 - GMS capacity building for HIV/AIDS prevention
 - Monitoring implementation of the MOU for Joint Action to Reduce HIV Vulnerability Associated with Population Movement in the GMS
- Strengthening subregional cooperation in anti-human trafficking
 - Support for anti-human trafficking



-10

ST #6: Mitigating social costs in the economic corridors

- Assessing the social impact of increased GMS connectivity
 - Social impact assessments in specific locations along the economic corridors
- Enhancing the sense of GMS community in GMS youth
 - Building the intellectual capital for offering an "ASEAN Studies" course (managed by AUN)
 - GMS Youth Forum



-11

ST #7: Strengthening institutions and mechanisms for GMS HRD Cooperation

- Supporting implementation of SFAP 2013-2017
 - Implementing the GMS HRD Strategic Framework and Action Plan (Phase 2)
 - Strengthen national implementation and monitoring of the SFAP



-12

APPENDIX 12: EDUCATION SUBGROUP REPORT - HIGHER EDUCATION GROUP

Report of Education Subgroup

- **Leaders:** Dr. Phonephet Boupha and Dr. Zaw Myint
- **Facilitators:** Dr. Yasushi Hirotsato and Mr. Joel V. Mangahas
- **Members:**
 1. Mr. Mak Ngoy
 2. Mr. He Shanhua
 3. Ms. Somchanh Xaysida
 4. Ms. Tin Tin Lay
 5. Ms. Chadarat Singhadechakul
 6. Ms. Vitida Sivakua
 7. Ms. Sirima Tohmeena
 8. Mr. Huynh Khac Diep
 9. Dr. Witaya Jeradechakul
 10. Dr. Sauwakon Ratanawijitrasin
 11. Ms. Abigail C. Lanceta

- We agreed in principle with Action Plan related to ST1: Capacity Development in the Economic Corridors, ST3: Cooperation in Higher Education and Research, and ST 7: Strengthening Institutions & Mechanisms for GMS HRD Cooperation.
- Subgroup proposed some modifications of the Project descriptions and indicative time frame in the ST3 as follows:
 1. **GMS HE Harmonization and Networking (Phase 2): ... including both IQA and EQA in GMS countries... in collaboration with AUN and other regional organizations ...**

2. Cooperation and Development in HE in the Economic Corridor:

- Indicative time frame to be changed to 2013-2014 (PPTA) and approval in 2014.
- Selected universities in the Economic Corridors to participate in the Project.

3. Support the establishment of a GMS knowledge platform:

- Web-based platform to be established by PRC to serve as gateway for exchanging and sharing regional knowledge, experiences and lessons learned for the purposes of
 - identifying medium to long-term common research agenda

- Identifying 2-3 priority research work to be conducted by GMS countries

Thank You!

APPENDIX 13: EDUCATION SUBGROUP REPORT - TVET SUBGROUP

II. a. Developing and implementing skills recognition frameworks	<u>Proposed action/revisions</u>
<p># 1 and 2</p> <p>Members of TVET Sub-group: Moderated by Norman Laroque (ADB)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ CAM ▪ THAILAND ▪ CAOPDR ▪ MYANMAR ▪ VN ▪ ADB ▪ ILO ▪ UNESCO ▪ SEAMEO <p>1. Development and piloting of a framework for the mutual recognition of technical and vocational skills in the GMS (Phase 2)</p> <p>2. Extension of the technical skills and qualifications recognition frameworks to additional skills most critical for the development of the economic corridors.</p>	<p><u>Key questions: Who will be ADB ‘Lead’? What is the modality of implementation if ILO is proposed to take lead in implementation? SSS?</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to use different implementation mechanism • ILO is proposed to take lead in implementation: for further discussion • Cambodia should participate • Domestic housekeeping, welding, auto mechanics were covered in Phase 1 • There is an MOU between ILO + ADB • SSS with ADB: will this be the modality? • Need to identify skill areas (economic corridors) • Look at competency standards in individual countries <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ (current ADB projects) • ASEAN 2015 • Myanmar to be included? Need for TVET sector assessment <p>1. Requires longer time frame (2015)</p> <p>2. For Phase 2 implementation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Bring Cambodia from Phase 1 (b) Need for more advocacy within other government agencies <p>=> mode of implementation/advocacy/knowledge led</p>

	<p>implementation – need policy decision to get moving</p> <p>(c) Phase 2 will cover 3 skills areas with 4 countries</p> <p>3. There are a number of on-going ADB TVET Projects:</p> <p>(a) STVET 1 (CAM) – 5 skills areas</p> <p>(b) STVET1 (LAO) – 4 skills areas</p> <p>(c) STVET (VIE) – 5 skills areas</p>
<p>II. b. Strengthening technical and vocational education and training (TVET)</p> <p>1. Harmonization of TVET teacher training standards</p> <p>2. Development of standard learning materials for TVET</p>	<p>1. For teacher training standards, use same skill areas as skills recognition (economic corridors) – who should be involved?</p> <p>1. There are a number of countries/institutions with experiences:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Thailand ○ PRC ○ Singapore/Malaysia ○ SEAMEO ○ ITE / Tenasec??? ○ Korea <p>2. ILO proposed to manage – for discussion; again what will be the modality?</p> <p>3. Myanmar should be included among the countries: there is need for a TVET sector assessment</p> <p>4. Coverage will be on :context, pedagogy and the technical and practical contents</p> <p>5. What to do we mean by ‘Harmonize’?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Need to rethink this term ○ Mutual recognition of teacher standards <p>STEPS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identify Standards - Gap analysis - Capacity building - TTIs
<p>II.b3 3. Quality Assurance</p>	<p>Quality Assurance to consider:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Development of QA system; see Australia's model as well - Identification of institutes - Not all countries have QAs in place <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * CAM, THA possible models? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Culture/heritage list ▪ UNESCO - Develop QA system Time frame - 2016/17 ->Funding - TBD - Myanmar to be included - Links to UNESCO - On-going work: being developed by Australian; Experts for ASEAN - 11 SEA countries have QAs
<p>IIb4</p> <p>4. Public-private partnership (PPP) in TVET</p>	<p>The PPP approaches should consider the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concession type models • Identification of possible projects • Identification of institutes/partners • Get collaboration of the best of private institutions with government • TA could identify/scope possible projects/countries/sectors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Service sector ○ franchising • Capacity building • Regulatory framework for PPPs – done as part of TA • Myanmar to be included • Would not involve transaction work • SEAMEO Voctech – Education Miinsters want SEAMEO to do this -

APPENDIX 14: HEALTH SUBGROUP

Comments on GMS Strategic Framework and Action Plan for HRD 2009-2012

- Still need to maintain MDGs after 2015, in CDC
- Appreciate that Myanmar is included in HIV, also consider include Myanmar in GMS health program
- Improve mechanism for health group cooperation particular for China, Myanmar and Thailand
- Consider sustaining achievement of ongoing activities, e.g., CDC2 is important in HRDWG program so health groups proposes to program CDC3
- Need more regional capacity building in surveillance and outbreak response

Cont'd

- China and Thailand already support X-border activities, e.g., China support malaria, TB, HIV, would like to work with countries receiving CDC2 support, ADB to facilitate
- China provided technical assistance for HMF in Cambodia, this type of cooperation needs to be considered in the future
- Some overlap of meetings, improve coordination and information sharing with other initiatives, also ASEAN, MBDS, other bilateral cooperations

Comments on GMS Strategic Framework and Action Plan for HRD 2013-2017 incl Strategic Thrusts

- **Framework needs to reflect regional CDC beyond x-border activity:** APSED, capacity building for regional CDC; propose that relevant paragraphs in the main text also reflect this, including mentioning of APSED/IHR
- Two health thrusts are ok but it is noted that health group also addresses ST1: capacity building in economic corridors
- Include WHO, FAO as partners in write up

Comments on GMS Health Action Plan

- Prefer one large project like CDC rather than small projects given processing complexity
- Request for CDC3 including APSED roll-out, cross-border cooperation, dengue, food safety
- Propose funding for regional surveillance and outbreak response strategy
- Include Food and Drug safety, incl Myanmar
- Include multisectoral cooperation in CDC3, in part zoonoses
- Show recent ADB trade facilitation project
- Include migrant worker in Universal Health Care Coverage (group 3)
- Include climate change and health (NDF)
- HIA is pre-project, can focus on regional and national issues

Dengue

- Budget is very small for 4 countries for 3 years
- Dengue is a major public health issue with increased geographical spread from urban to rural and more temperate areas
- Need to revise regional Dengue Strategy
- Propose use funds for TA too small for project
 - Not effective, especially vector control (urban)
 - Introduced into other areas: Rattanakiri and Mondolkiri

Comments on ST7

- Agree with yearly health group meeting as the core guiding mechanism under HRDWG
- May also need additional technical meeting(s), no immediate need for subgroup
- May consider updating GMS health strategy but no time to discuss

APPENDIX 15: LABOR AND MIGRATION SUBGROUP - LABOR AND MIGRATION GROUP

V. FACILITATING SAFE CROSS-BORDER LABOR MIGRATION	
<p>a. Protecting the rights of cross-border migrants</p>	<p>1. Improving the flow of information to cross-border labor migrants in sending countries (Phase 2)</p> <p>This project builds on previous successful pilot work to conduct a labor awareness campaign for potential migrant workers in three districts of Cambodia, and Lao PDR. Under this project coverage will be expanded to include more districts in Cambodia, Lao PDR and Myanmar. A strengthened monitoring and evaluation component is also included in this project. The project will address gender issues related to safe migration and prevention of human trafficking within its approach. This project will be managed by the International Organization for Migration.</p> <p>Timeline: Commence March 2013 (over a period of 18 months)</p> <p>Detailed activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Needs assessment to identify vulnerable communities and areas with focus on border areas Identify appropriate messages/practical information as well as user-friendly information materials on existing legal instruments Set up monitoring and evaluation mechanisms Provide pre-departure and pre-employment orientation through Migrant Resource Center and other existing public and
	<p>2013–2015</p>
	<p>\$500,000 (\$200,000 ADB R-PATA Implementing GMS HRD SFAP 2013–2017; \$300,000 TBD)</p>

	<p>private facilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Package information job opportunities and empowerment component for vulnerable people <p>Countries: Cambodia, Lao PDR, Vietnam (MOLISA), Myanmar (MOL), Thailand (MOL, Immigration Bureau and MOI) and China (MOF)</p>		
<p>b. Improving labor migration management in the GMS</p>	<p>1. Capacity building in labor migration management</p> <p>This project will train immigration officials and labor attaches in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Viet Nam. Training will integrate and address specific vulnerabilities of men and women. It will be managed by the International Organization for Migration.</p> <p>Timeline: Commence November 2012 (two years)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct expert-level review in analyzing implementation of existing MOU in the subregion Conduct capacity building training Introduce monitoring system at the migrant workers' work places can be encouraged Review inspection capacities of relevant ministries and develop standard operating procedures Develop a guide to improve coordination mechanisms among different ministries dealing with migration Develop a subregional labor market information system to capture and analyze market trends 	<p>2013–2014</p>	<p>\$300,000 (IOM, other development partners)</p>

<p>c. Enhancing social protection for migrant workers in the GMS</p>	<p>1. Improving access of cross-border migrant workers to basic social services</p> <p>This project will review current access of migrant workers and their dependents to basic social services in the receiving countries, identify issues and propose solutions, highlighting specific issues relevant for men and women. Support will be provided to GMS governments to implement the agreed upon actions. This project will be managed by the International Organization for Migration.</p> <p>Timeline: Commence June 2013 (one year)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review access to basic social services for migrant workers and their families in countries of destination Identify network support systems for migrants and their families Present policy recommendations in improving social services and propose policy framework <p>All activities will have a task force to implement the activities.</p>	2013–2017	<p>\$500,000 (\$200,000 ADB R-PATA Implementing GMS HRD SFAP 2013–2017; \$300,000 TBD)</p>
VI. MITIGATING SOCIAL COSTS IN THE ECONOMIC CORRIDORS			
<p>a. HIV/AIDS prevention</p>	<p>1. GMS Capacity Building for HIV/AIDS Prevention</p> <p>This project will focus on HIV prevention and control among high-risk populations along the GMS economic corridors in Lao PDR and Vietnam. The project aims to strengthen provincial and district HIV prevention and control responses through improved knowledge, standards, accessibility and quality of health services for at-risk mobile groups, including sex workers in the border areas and</p>	2013–2017	<p>\$21 million (\$20 million in ADF loan/grant and \$1 million for TA from Sida)</p>

	towns of the GMS economic corridors.			
	2. Monitoring implementation of the MOU for Joint Action to Reduce HIV Vulnerability Associated with Population Movement in the GMS This project will monitor implementation of the MOU in the GMS signatory countries.	2013–2017	\$100,000 (ADB R-PATA Implementing GMS HRD SFAP 2013–2017)	
b. Strengthening subregional cooperation in anti-human trafficking	<p>1. Support for anti-human trafficking</p> <p>This project will support enhanced mainstreaming of human trafficking and safe migration concerns and support an enhanced regional policy dialogue and partnerships on these topics.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessment of institutional mainstreaming and achievements so far. Lessons learned, best practices, next steps 	2013–2015	\$100,000 (ADB R-PATA Implementing GMS HRD SFAP 2013–2017)	
c. Assessing the social impact of increased GMS connectivity	<p>1. Social Impact assessments in specific locations along the economic corridors.</p> <p>This project will conduct social impact assessments in selected locations along the economic corridors, focusing on such vulnerable groups as women, children, youth and ethnic groups. The findings will be used to improve current and future projects along the GMS economic corridors.</p>	2013–2015	\$150,000 (ADB R-PATA Implementing GMS HRD SFAP 2013–2017)	

^a Additional projects can be added in the course of project preparation and implementation.

APPENDIX 16: LABOR AND MIGRATION SUBGROUP - HIV AND INFRASTRUCTURE GROUP

GREATHER MEKONG SUBREGION MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING TO REDUCE HIV VULNERABILITY ASSOCIATED WITH POPULATION MOVEMENT JOINT ACTION PROGRAM (2012-2014)¹

STRATEGY	COLLABORATION AREA	KEY ACTIONS/ACTIVITIES	MILESTONES/TARGETS
COLLABORATION AREA I: TO PROMOTE ENABLING ENVIRONMENT AND MECHANISMS			
I-i) Support enabling policy environment to reduce HIV vulnerability, stigma & discrimination, and promote access to prevention, treatment, care and support by improving systems of governance on development-related mobility.	1. Collect evidence to support policy development and share information from research and good practices.		
	<p>1.1 Establish/strengthen of information exchange on HIV and migrant and mobile population through effective and efficient repository/database mechanism</p> <p>1.2 Conduct research studies on migrant and mobile population that would help strengthen policy environment at the regional and national level</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide support for existing databases (eg. HIVAIDS Datahub, JUNIMA) to act as online information exchange of research, publications, latest news and meetings related to migration, mobility and HIV vulnerability in the region • Mapping exercises to identify: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Migration patterns and profiles and mobility route with vulnerability assessment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • using established/tested methodologies, i.e. EMPHASIS study on Nepal- India & Bangladesh 2) Socio-economic determinants of health and HIV vulnerabilities for migrants <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • gender, legal status, stigma and discrimination, barriers to health access, travel restrictions, etc 3) Linkages between HIV vulnerability and migration and mobility 4) Economics implications of providing health access <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • highlighting 'hidden' cost to health system to demonstrate savings if migrants are provided access to health services; • proving investment in HIV prevention is good business; • understanding costs of prevention vs care. • cost-benefit analysis of HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment programs for migrants, 	<p>2013- JUNIMA AIDS Data Hub</p> <p>By 2013 Existing research studies collated and mechanism to address gaps is indentified</p> <p>By 2014 Patterns of migration and linkage to HIV vulnerability indentified</p>

STRATEGY	COLLABORATION AREA	KEY ACTIONS/ACTIVITIES	MILESTONES/TARGETS	
		<p>analysis of how to make interventions cost-effective</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Setting up an indicator of number of migrant and mobile population which is included in national/ regional HIV reporting system 		
	1.3 Harmonize country policies and development initiatives on migrants and migrants' health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mapping exercise to identify key stakeholders. existing national policies, identify policy incoherence and gaps; include initiatives of development partners such as UN agencies and ASEAN 	<p>By 2013</p> <p>Review and analysis of existing policies and mechanism of the GMS countries</p>	
	2. Raise awareness and advocate among policy makers for supportive policies.			
	2.1. Develop advocacy materials and information briefs for policymakers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create information briefs/advocacy materials in key GMS languages Advocate for mainstreaming of HIV prevention and promotion programs as part of contracting for new infrastructure 	<p>By 2014</p> <p>Advocacy materials and policy briefs need to develop are confirmed (at regional/country level)</p>	
	2.2 Establish a forum as venue for engaging policymakers on issues such as HIV, migrants' access to health care, and cross-border cooperation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forum for Parliamentarians where proposed evidence-based policies and corresponding budget can be presented and agreed on to strengthen a mainstreamed approach on migration & HIV 		
	2.3 Engage media as partner in promoting supportive policy environment for HIV, migrant health and cross-border cooperation			
	3. Disseminate and advocate for the implementation of the MOU and JAP at various levels and among relevant sectors.		2013-2014	
	3.1. Develop advocacy plan with key messages to ensure implementation of the MOU and JAP at various levels targeting relevant sectors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> each country to include advocacy plan in their Country Action Plan 	<p>By 2013</p> <p>Each country completed the advocacy plan and disseminated it to relevant sector</p>	
	3.2 Develop communication materials on the MOU and JAP in key GMS languages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> translation of the MOU and JAP in key GMS languages and dissemination to relevant stakeholders including development partners and NGOs/CBOs 	<p>By 2013</p> <p>Translation of the MOU and JAP is completed and disseminated to relevant partners</p>	
	I-ii) Strengthen intra- and inter-country multi-sectoral	4. Facilitate multi-sectoral collaboration at intra- and inter-country levels relevant to mobility-related HIV issues.		2013-2014

STRATEGY	COLLABORATION AREA	KEY ACTIONS/ACTIVITIES	MILESTONES/TARGETS
<p>collaboration, including public-private partnership, on HIV vulnerability related to migrants and mobile population at the local, national and regional levels</p>	<p>4.1 Conduct/organize yearly regional forum among relevant sectors and practitioners to share information, advocacy and best practices</p> <p>4.2 Optimize existing regional meetings such as ASEAN Summit, ASEAN People's Forum, etc. to include HIV and migrant health issues</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> formation of a technical group of experts from diverse background including country representatives for review & assessment of progress and technical suggestion to countries to strengthen intervention provide research/information/advocacy materials to support Cambodia to advocate for inclusion of HIV/Health issues in the agenda of the 5th ASEAN forum on migrant labour 	<p>By 2013/2014 Regional Forum conducted</p> <p>By 2013/2014 Information and advocacy materials concerning JAP shared at the ATFOA (2013/2014), ASEAN+3 health ministers meeting (2014)</p>
<p>COLLABORATION AREA II: TO PROMOTE COMMUNITY-BASED STRATEGIES THAT REDUCE HIV VULNERABILITY</p> <p>II-i) Promote community-based development approaches using people-centered methodologies by empowering communities affected by development-related mobility to prevent HIV infection.</p>	<p>1. Involve communities and key affected population and migrant workers in the planning, implementation and monitoring of interventions.</p> <p>1.1 Undertake participatory studies of source and host communities (to include gender and social networks specific to occupational sites)</p> <p>1.2. Identify/Map CBOs/NGOs working in affected populations and services available in local communities (host and sending)</p> <p>2. Develop and implement activities for affected communities to understand, anticipate and adjust to development factors that contribute to HIV vulnerability resulting from mobility.</p> <p>2.1 Design/Develop sustained community-managed/based interventions on HIV prevention, health and migrant population that would also provide link between source and host countries</p> <p>2.2 Engage CSOs/NGOs in developing/piloting cross-border activities on HIV, health and migrant population</p>	<p>1. Involve communities and key affected population and migrant workers in the planning, implementation and monitoring of interventions.</p> <p>1.1 Undertake participatory studies of source and host communities (as a part of mapping exercise) completed</p> <p>By 2013 Identification and mapping of CBOs/NGOs be completed</p> <p>By 2013 Community-managed/based interventions on HIV prevention, health and migrant population developed</p> <p>By 2013 Mechanism for collaboration with CSOs/NGOs in developing/piloting cross-border activities developed</p>	<p>By 2013 Participatory studies of source and host communities (as a part of mapping exercise) completed</p> <p>By 2013 Identification and mapping of CBOs/NGOs be completed</p> <p>By 2013 Community-managed/based interventions on HIV prevention, health and migrant population developed</p> <p>By 2013 Mechanism for collaboration with CSOs/NGOs in developing/piloting cross-border activities developed</p>

STRATEGY	COLLABORATION AREA	KEY ACTIONS/ACTIVITIES	MILESTONES/TARGETS
II-i) Enhance information dissemination, education and behavior change communication in HIV/AIDS prevention for the community of migrants and mobile populations.	2.3 Conduct of participatory researches and studies on migrant and mobile population that would inform community-based and cross-border activities, interventions and strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> conduct regional research to map and understand migrants' vulnerabilities, including analysis of motivations for migration, analysis of specific vulnerability linked to mobility and migration; specific understanding of occupational contexts and their link to mobility 	By 2013/2014 Participatory researches and studies on migrant and mobile population conducted
	3. Strengthen collaboration amongst agencies, including the private sector, involved in and related to development planning and projects/programmes.		
	3.1 Develop mechanism for public-private partnerships to address HIV and migrant health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> develop multi-level private sector engagement in PPP initiatives (i.e. project, campaigns, etc.) 	2013- (longer-term)
	3.2 Engage ministries dealing with private corporations hiring migrant workers to integrate HIV and migrant health in the cooperative agreement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> review workplace program with a specific approach for gender based intervention 	2013- (longer-term)
II-ii) Promote leadership and political commitment at the community, national and regional levels to improve access to prevention, treatment, care and support.	4.1. Develop and implement localized, culturally-appropriate, target-specific behaviour change framework and plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> conduct outreach education for specific target groups (i.e. spouses of migrants, returning and circular migrants, host communities); conduct of awareness-raising activities for local authorities/police; conduct of pre-departure information (on health access rights, available services, etc.), particularly for women migrants 	By 2014 localized, culturally-appropriate, target-specific behaviour change framework and plan developed
	4.2 Based on the results of regional and local studies, develop and disseminate appropriate IEC materials targeting local communities and risk groups		By 2014 IEC materials targeting local communities and risk groups disseminated
COLLABORATION AREA III: TO PROMOTE ACCESS TO HIV AND AIDS PREVENTION, TREATMENT, CARE AND SUPPORT			
III-i) Promote leadership and political commitment at the community, national and regional levels to improve access to prevention, treatment, care and support.	1. Conduct dialogues between sending and receiving countries on access to prevention, treatment, care and support services for migrants and mobile population.		
	1.1. Establish bilateral and/or subregional coordination and cooperation at cross-border for prevention and treatment programs for migrant population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> convene bilateral and/or subregional meetings to set policy/protocol/direction on prevention, treatment, care and support for migrants; convene meetings between individual border provinces to develop action plans based on strategy produced in bilateral/subregional meetings; cross-border networks between border provinces/districts to ensure provision of information and services at the district 	By 2013 Bilateral meetings convened Meetings between border provinces to develop action plans convened

STRATEGY	COLLABORATION AREA	KEY ACTIONS/ACTIVITIES	MILESTONES/TARGETS
	1.2 Establish bilateral prevention systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> training of peer educators/volunteers with NGOs/CBOs on prevention services for migrants and mobile people in sending and host countries 	By 2013 Joint training of peer educators/volunteers with NGOs/CBOs for migrants conducted
III-ii) Support Strategies that ensure access to comprehensive HIV and AIDS prevention, treatment, care and support for migrant and mobile populations	<p>2. Develop a joint mechanism for provision of quality care, including ART and referral system for migrants and mobile population.</p> <p>2.1 Conduct bilateral and subregional technical meetings to develop a joint mechanism to propose a draft protocol of a referral system for HIV quality care</p> <p>2.2. Bilateral coordination regarding treatment regimes for migrants</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> create format for information that needs to be exchanged when migrants and mobile populations move across borders; develop effective referral system (MW brings hospital/medical record history back to sending countries); MW informed/conscious of hospital protocol re medical information study on standard service packages for migrants and mobile population at sending and hosting country 	<p>By 2013 Bilateral/subregional technical meetings conducted to develop a joint mechanism for a referral system</p> <p>By 2014 Policies and protocols developed for referral system</p>
	3.1 Develop innovative collaborative country-country initiatives to promote access to HIV and AIDS prevention and treatment for mobile and migrant population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> services providers aware and trained to provide services 	By 2013 Joint programs (bilateral level) developed
IV. MONITORING AND EVALUATION			
1. Use the annual meetings of the focal points for monitoring the progress of the implementation of the MOU Action Plan	<p>1. Review progress and identify follow up actions in annual meetings of focal points, held either independently or in conjunction with the annual meetings of ATFOA, JUNIMA, ADB, others</p> <p>1.1 Establish calendar for focal points meetings and request incorporation of MOU progress presentation in the agenda</p> <p>1.2 Produce MOU progress reports and briefs to be presented during focal points meetings</p>		<p>By 2013 Focal points meeting calendar established</p> <p>By 2013/2014 Annual progress reports and brief produced</p>

STRATEGY	COLLABORATION AREA	KEY ACTIONS/ACTIVITIES	MILESTONES/TARGETS
2. Establish an M&E framework to review progress in the implementation of the MOU	2. Develop M&E tools in line with the activities of the Joint Action Plan		
	2.1 Define M&E framework, baseline, indicators and assumptions for the MOU-JAP		By 2013 M&E framework developed
3. Establish reporting mechanism to the signatories of the MOU	3. Conduct Joint Review of progress in implementing the MOU		
	3.1 Prepare and conduct periodic joint review of MOU implementation		By 2013/2014 Periodic joint review of MOU implementation conducted
	4. Report to the biennial ASEAN Health Ministers Meeting plus China, or alternative meeting as required		
	4.1 Establish functional secretariat for the MOU operationalization; define functions and responsibilities; accountabilities		By 2013 Secretariat for MOU is established
	4.2 Provide adequate secretariat support to MOU signatories		By 2013/2014 Secretariat Support provided

APPENDIX 17: INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION (ILO)

**ILO Statement
11th Meeting of the GMS Working Group on
Human Resources Development
Park Royal Hotel, Yangon, Myanmar
01-02 November, 2012**

Distinguished Delegates to this 11th Meeting of the Working Group on HRD

Ladies and gentlemen.....

Good afternoon....

On the behalf of the ILO, I would like to thank the ADB for giving us the opportunity to participate in this 11th Meeting of the WG on HRD and allowing us to share our ideas and insights for possible collaborative partnerships and knowledge sharing among the GMS countries. I also thank the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar for hosting this meeting.

Within the framework of its Decent Work Agenda, the ILO has been advising and supporting its Member States in the GMS, working with governments, workers and employers organizations and partners. Our constituents have made solid progress in identifying policies and priorities through the countries' Decent Work Country Programmes (DWCP). Full productive employment and decent work for all is the most effective route out of poverty.⁴

The GMS Strategic Framework and Action Plan for HRD (2013-17) appropriately falls within the Decent Work key pillars of promoting decent and productive employment; and ensuring that the workers are adequately protected in their workplaces.

The ILO has always valued sub regional cooperation through a wide range of opportunities implemented through: (1) knowledge sharing (ILO's Knowledge Sharing Platform) for easy access to recent knowledge products, expertise services and tools; and sharing of good practices and lessons learned; and (2) direct action: technical guidance, policy advise; capacity building and implementing specific strategic actions and activities.

Let me briefly highlight some of ILO's programmes which address the proposed strategic thrusts of the GMS in : (1) cooperation in technical and vocational education and training; (2) mitigating social health issues; and (3) facilitating safe and cross border labour migration.

On cooperation in technical and vocational education and training (TVET)

At the GMS level, countries like Cambodia, Lao PDR and Thailand have continued to utilize the Regional Model Competency Standards (RMCS) as a practical and useful tool for developing and adapting competency/skills standards . The previous ADB Project on Framework for the Mutual Recognition of Technical and Vocational Skills and Qualifications with Lao PDR, Thailand and Viet Nam, identified the RMCS as a suitable benchmark to which national qualifications can be mapped and recommended.

⁴ ILO Mainstreaming Decent Work 2007.

ILO would like to continue its collaboration with the ADB in developing additional skills/occupations under the mutual recognition process for the same countries. Aside from the RMCS already existing in manufacturing, and tourism and hospitality, five more RMCS are being finalized: construction; mechanical service; core employability skills; welding; domestic work; and agriculture and aqua culture.

National level activities, with ILO's technical and financial support have been on-going for Lao PDR on national skills standards development for construction and automotive sectors (tourism and ICT sectors are forthcoming); for Cambodia, ILO is currently assisting in formulating their national employment and skills development policies; and for Thailand, on mutual recognition of skills and competencies for ASEAN. A number of studies and consultations are jointly undertaken by ILO and ADB in Cambodia.

On facilitating safe cross-border labour migration

The search for decent work and higher wages continues to drive migration within and from the GMS. As labour migration flows have continued to grow, the ILO has seen efforts from several governments to strengthen policies and programmes to govern labour migration, regularize migration flows and to better protect migrant workers. Policies exist to maximize the development potential of migration, but there is considerable scope for programmes to make more productive use of the remittances earned abroad as well as the skills learned abroad.

Effective governance of labour migration is about balancing a host of different issues and interests, a process which the ILO is supporting through multi-stakeholder coordination and consultation, within countries, but also at the bilateral and multilateral level. The ILO's TRIANGLE Project (*Tripartite Action to Protect Migrant Workers from Labour Exploitation*) aims to protect migrant workers within and from the GMS from labour exploitation and has initiated a range of activities in countries of origin and destination, works closely with governments, workers' and employers' organizations, as well as civil society organizations. The TRIANGLE Project is focused on regulating recruitment practices and strengthening labour protection, particularly in economic sectors that expose migrant workers to higher risks, for example fishing, domestic work and agriculture. Migrant Resource Centres (MRCs) have been set up in the 5 countries providing support services on safe migration, information, counselling and legal assistance. The ADB and the ILO together with the 5 countries, can work together on issues of skills recognition of both departing and returning migrant workers. Moreover, the ILO has been collaborating with IOM on specific activities.

A new CIDA-funded ASEAN TRIANGLE Project covering the ASEAN Member States is implemented to reduce labour exploitation by strengthening regional policies and capacities related to the recruitment and labour protection of women and men migrants consistent with ASEAN priorities, targets and commitments as reflected in their plans and programmes.

Further, through the ILO/China Partnership agreement and South-south cooperation modality with the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security (MoHRSS), a network of job centres in Cambodia and Lao PDR will be strengthened for better job search and placement to improve employment in these countries. Overseas employment is a component.

ILO's comparative strength in migration is its tripartite structure which facilitates achieving broad social consensus in the areas of drafting and implementing migration policies and programmes.

On mitigating social costs in economic corridors

ILO's social protection strategy has established effective HIV prevention programmes at both national and enterprise levels, in line with the ILO labour standard on HIV and AIDS in the World of Work, Recommendation 200. Action programmes focus on assisting Lao PDR to develop national policy to protect the employment rights of people living with HIV; supporting Cambodia and Thailand to develop targeted workplace programs in the entertainment sector to improve working conditions for sex workers and improve access to HIV prevention and treatment; and extending its community based entrepreneurship programme in Cambodia, Thailand and Viet Nam, to people living with HIV to assist them to start and manage their own businesses and reduce the economic impact of the virus on individuals and households.

Cross-cutting concerns

Youth employment is a cross-cutting concern which needs priority attention in the GMS countries. Young people are in a vulnerable situation because they are faced with challenges such as transition to adulthood and to the world of work, many of them lack skills and work experience, job-search skills and financial resources to find decent jobs. They are also disadvantaged because of factors like gender, racial, ethnic or migrant background and geographical isolation. Further, the situations faced by young women and men are often different, which implies that gender equality concerns need to be addressed when tackling youth unemployment.

A number of countries will experience significant increases in their youth populations in the coming years. ILO's interventions have focused on improving the links between education, training and the world of work through social dialogue (conducted school to work transition surveys); assisting in job search, career guidance and counselling; improving the range and types of apprenticeships by complementing learning at the workplace with more structured institutional learning; and monitoring and regulating internships and other work experiences schemes to allow for real learning experience.⁵

Conclusion

Collectively, these Projects support the goals of the WG in advancing the HRD agenda in the GMS. However, the ILO recommends strengthened collaboration by ADB in countries and with development partners to ensure better complementation and avoid overlaps in implementation of the programmes and activities.

We look forward to continue working with ADB in implementing the Strategic Framework and Action Plan for HRD for 2013-2017.

Thank you!

⁵ ILO Report Committee on Youth Employment ILC 2012

Appendix 18: INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen, Esteemed Colleagues;

On behalf of the IOM, I would like to thank the government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar for generously hosting this event. Additionally, I would like to thank the ADB for organizing this 11th meeting of the GMS Working Group on Human Resource Development. The newly updated strategic framework and action plan reflects the needs and priorities of this region, and IOM is greatly honoured to continue working with Governments and Development Partners in the Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS) countries in working towards the achievement of the overarching goals and objectives of this framework.

Since the programme for regional cooperation was launched in 1992, we have seen dramatic improvements in economic cooperation and development among countries in the GMS. Migration has been an important factor in these improvements and has played a key role in bringing economic prosperity to a significant number of people in the sub-region. Increasingly, the GMS countries are noting that properly managed migration has the potential to substantially contribute to sustainable human resource development and is essential for longer term economic development.

In addition to its close links with the ADB, UN partner organizations, and other development partners, IOM remains strongly engaged in providing support to migration issues through partnerships with the governments of the six countries of the GMS. Where possible, IOM develops regional solutions to address cross-border issues to assist and protect vulnerable migrants and promote humane and orderly migration for the benefit of all. However, existing and new migration challenges, such as risks of trafficking and exploitation, climate change; changing demographics and rural to urban population movement must also be addressed to fulfil the potential for HRD development.

The current GMS strategic framework for Human Resource Development highlights the need for strategic areas of focus for HRD cooperation. IOM seeks to broaden its engagement across these areas of focus, particularly in areas where it can address cross border HRD concerns resulting from sub-regional integration.

IOM places a particular emphasis on facilitating safe labour migration within the sub-region. Labour migration is one of the areas where the benefits of formal cooperation are considerable, yet the institutional, political, and technical obstacles to such cooperation are daunting. The aim is to clearly explain and operationalize the modalities to facilitate regular and safe labour migration in the GMS. This work begins with identifying the related issues and proposing ideas aimed at strengthening the sub regional framework. A series of recommendations have already been put forward in the upcoming publication on labour migration in the GMS that ADB and IOM are currently working on. Three recommendations highlight the need for institutional protection mechanisms for migrants in cross-border settings, strengthening capacity and the legal framework in managing labour migration in the GMS and enhancing social protection for migrants and their families.

Communicable disease control in the sub-region, particularly among migrants, is an on-going focus for IOM. Currently, active projects on prevention, treatment and control of tuberculosis, malaria and HIV amongst migrants and host communities are implemented in several countries

of the GMS. This includes the long running Migrant Health Programme and recent Global Fund Round 10 Malaria control projects in Thailand; TB Reach initiatives in Laos PDR, Thailand, and Cambodia; Community-based Programme on TB, HIV and Malaria among mobile population and migrant communities in Myanmar; Health Assessment and HIV prevention projects among migrants in several countries of the GMS.

The importance of migrant's health and the role of health systems to address this issue in their service delivery is increasingly recognized. Globally, Member States have signed on to the WHA Resolution on the "Health of Migrants" (in 2008) that promotes migrant-inclusive health policies and equitable access to health promotion and care for migrants. To advance the implementation of this resolution (WHA 61.17), IOM has worked with the health systems in Thailand, Vietnam and Cambodia to initialize the integration of the migration health agenda in their public health approach. We look forward to further advance this support to other countries in the GMS.

The strategic framework for HRD provides a useful starting point to guide the development of human resources in the sub-region. The IOM is committed to supporting government counterparts in recognizing the importance of building regional solutions to improve the human resource capacity of both government officials and in turn the welfare of migrants who are the collective responsibility of us all.

Thank you for your attention.

APPENDIX 19: SOUTHEAST ASIAN MINISTERS OF EDUCATION ORGANIZATION (SEAMEO) SECRETARIAT



SEAMEO's Areas of Interest for Collaboration

Sector	Possible Implementing or Supporting SEAMEO Units
EDUCATION	
I. Capacity development in the economic corridors	
a) Building capacity of GMS government officials in development management 1. GMS Phnom Penh Plan for Development (Phase 5) 2. Review of GMS capacity building activities	Relevant SEAMEO Centres depending on specific training needs
II. Cooperation in technical and vocational education and training	
a) Developing and implementing skills recognition frameworks b) Strengthening technical and vocational and training	SEAMEO VOCTECH (Centre for vocational and technical education and training)
III. Cooperation in higher education and research	
a) Strengthening GMS higher education	SEAMEO RIHED (Centre for higher education and development)
b) Strengthening GMS research capacity	SEAMEO SEARCA Centre for graduate study and research in agriculture)
HEALTH	
IV. Addressing regional health issues	
a) Strengthening communicable disease control in the GMS	SEAMEO TROPMED Network (Centre for tropical medicine and public health)
b) GMS food and drugs safety	SEAMEO RECFFON (Centre for food and nutrition)
c) Health impact of GMS integration	SEAMEO TROPMED Network

SEAMEO's Areas of Interest for Collaboration

CROSS-SECTORAL	
VI. Mitigating social costs in the economic corridors	
a) HIV/AIDS prevention	SEAMEO TROPMED Network (Centre for tropical medicine and public health)
c) Assessing the social impact of increased GMS connectivity	SEAMEO INNOTECH (Centre for educational innovation and technology)
d) Enhancing the sense of GMS community in GMS youth	SEAMEO INNOTECH (Centre for educational innovation and technology)
1. Building the Intellectual capital for offering an "ASEAN studies" course	
2. GMS Youth Forum	SEAMEO SPAFA (Centre for archaeology and fine arts)
VII. Strengthening institutions and mechanisms for GMS HRD cooperation	
a) Supporting implementation of SFAP	2013-2017 SEAMEO Secretariat



Thank you and please contact us:

Website: www.seameo.org
Email: secretariat@seameo.org



Southeast Asian
Ministers of Education Organization

APPENDIX 20: UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (UNDP) AND JOINT INITIATIVE ON MOBILITY AND HIV/AIDS (JUNIMA)

Thank you for inviting us. It has been a great pleasure being here and we have learned a lot over the last two days.

What is JUNIMA?

1. How could you contribute to effectively advance the HRD agenda

There are a range of challenges in providing HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, care and support services to cross-border labour migrants, including:

- i. Policies on access for migrant workers
- ii. Sensitivity and Suitability of Service Provision
- iii. Differences in ART Treatment Regimens
- iv. Very fluid mobility. Countries that were traditionally sending countries (Lao, Cambodia) are not also receiving countries, and vice versa. This means that new ways of thinking and operating need to be put in place.

The new HRD:

Objectives:

Support HRD initiatives that directly facilitate the process of subregional cooperation and integration

Address cross-border issues directly linked to GMS integration (e.g. communicable diseases)

Key new features

- Emphasis on the economic corridor
- Consistency with ASEAN socio-economic blueprint
- Expand technical support – provide knowledge platform to provide technical capacity.

HOW CAN UNDP and JUNIMA help in advancing the HRD?

- a) ASEAN secretariat is a member of JUNIMA and UNDP has a long term relationship with ASEAN Secretariat including a LOA. We know how to work with them and maneuver the system.

- b) Technical expertise. We have been working on mobility and HIV in the region for over a decade. We know the TA that is needed, we know how to reach to experts that can tell us highly specialized issues (access to ART for migrants across borders),
- c) Because of the uniqueness of JUNIMA that brings together governments, CSOs and UN family, we have the convening power to bring the key actors around the table.

2. How to enhance knowledge sharing among the countries

Need to work together. One sector can't do it alone

Strong secretariat that will respond to the 4 areas of collaboration: policy environment, community based strategies, access to HIV prevention treatment care and support and monitoring and evaluation

We are able to collect and share the information that is needed

3. Indicate areas of interest for collaborative partnerships

Development of the MOU took closely to 2 years (since Guilin to last December when it was signed).

Developed a very comprehensive JAP throughout 2011 and 2012

Very strong commitment from the 6 countries, willingness to work together (quite unique)

We are looking forward the launching of the implementation of the JAP.

In closing:

2015 is a key year.

By 2015 ASEAN Becomes one community, and this specially going to be felt / seen even more because of the porous borders you all share.

By 2015 is the deadline of UNAIDS new strategy 'getting to zero' (0 AIDS related deaths, 0 new infections and 0 stigma and discrimination).

There is a small window to put systems in place to ensure that migrants can work, life and lead healthy lives in the region.

Thank you.

APPENDIX 21: UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION (UNESCO)

UNESCO and the GMS countries have a long-standing collaboration in several areas covered by the SFAP, in particular in Education, notably Higher Education and TVET, as well as in HIV/AIDS prevention.

We have noted with a lot of satisfaction the intention of the Working Group on Human Resource Development and the ADB to expand its partnership with other development partners in the future. UNESCO stands ready to further discuss with ADB such expanded collaboration in each of the countries in the GMS and at regional level. In a context of global reduction of development aid, development partners, in particular intergovernmental ones, indeed need to coordinate their support, based on their comparative advantages.

As the UN Agency with mandate in education, sciences, culture, communication and information, UNESCO found the draft SFAP very comprehensive and addressing the most pertinent issues in the sub-region. We have tentatively identified a few potential areas at sub regional or national level (so far under the first three thrusts) where collaboration is feasible and in the context of the GMS HRD, including:

- (i) Capacity development in the economic corridors
 - a. Subregional: Capacity development for education policy reform, sector planning and management
 - b. Subregional: Estimating teacher resourcing needs and implications to achieving universal basic education (including lower secondary) towards 2015 and beyond
 - c. Vietnam: Teachers' capacity development for active teaching and learning fostering learners' critical and creative thinking
- (ii) Technical and vocational education and training
 - a. Subregional: Supporting development of National Qualification Frameworks (NQFs) and the Regional Qualification Framework (RQF) under the umbrella of the ASEAN Regional Qualifications Framework in the making, including contributing to the definition of the ASEAN reference for learning outcomes
 - b. Subregional: Comparative research on skills development policies
 - c. Vietnam: Improving school-to-work transition information base and career guidance services in TVET
 - d. Myanmar: Conduct a HRD course in collaboration with both the ministry of education and industry to extend technical skills most critical for economic development and expand qualification recognition frameworks.
- (iii) Cooperation in higher education and research:
 - a. Follow-up through The Regional Convention on the Recognition of Studies, Diplomas and Degrees in Higher Education in Asia and the Pacific, with special attention on quality assurance and accreditation
 - b. Joint research on pertinent issues in higher education through ERI-Net (Education Research institutes Network in the Asia-Pacific)
 - c. Myanmar: focus on capacity development in strengthening of national-level quality assurance and accreditation mechanisms to support mutual recognition of higher education.

In addition, UNESCO also propose the below areas for potential collaboration as follows:

- a. UNESCO Bangkok has created an information portal, “National Education Systems and Policies in the Asia-Pacific Region” (NESPAP)⁶ where users have an access to a wide range of information, publications, documents and resource materials on national education systems. Users are also able to upload the information, facilitating interaction and cooperation between policy-makers. Users from the GMS countries can benefit from the exchange of information through this portal.
- b. UNESCO Bangkok’s Education System Profiles⁷ provide an overview of a country’s education systems, their priorities, achievement and challenges. This portal was designed for policy makers who wish to compare key features of education systems in the region. The profile currently covers 21 countries (including 4 GMS countries) and is planned to expand its coverage. The GMS countries can benefit from this portal for reviewing their education systems in light of other countries’ experiences in the region, supporting the harmonization process.
- c. Cooperation in quality of education issues by assisting GMS countries in the measurement of learning outcomes to support the generation of graduates who are ready for further education or to enter the world of work. UNESCO can support capacity building and exchange of best practices in this area through its analytical work on assessment issues as well as through the establishment of a regional network on assessment issues, in which the GMS countries will be invited to participate.
- d. Myanmar: Supporting development of education regulatory frameworks that emphasize sector-wide national qualification frameworks, promoting life-long learning and mutual recognition of skills throughout the education system.

Most of these areas are already reflected in the draft SFAP, but not all. ADB Secretariat is therefore welcome to add the above areas of potential collaboration in the document and to discuss with us, at regional and national levels, the potential roles of each partner and the partnership modalities.

⁶ <http://www4.unescobkk.org/nespap/>

⁷ <http://www.unescobkk.org/education/resources/education-system-profiles/>

APPENDIX 22: CLOSING REMARKS

**Dr. Soe Lwin Nyein
Professor and Director (Epidemiology)
Department of Health, Ministry of Health
Republic of the Union of Myanmar**

Ms. Leah Gutierrez, Our ADB Co-Chair of this meeting,

Distinguished participants from the GMS Countries,

Representatives of Development Partners,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We have now come to the conclusion of our meeting. Over the past two days, we listened to comprehensive presentations by resource persons on specific topics related to our subregional cooperation in health, education, labor and migration, and social development. With the assistance of the ADB secretariat and commissioned consultant, we reviewed the progress of implementation the GMS HRD SFAP 2009-2012. We discussed in detail both in plenary and in subgroup meetings the proposed strategic thrusts and action plan for the next 5 years.

I must say that we have successfully achieved our primary objective for this meeting. We have unanimously agreed to endorse the new GMS HRD SFAP for 2013-2017, for eventual endorsement by the GMS Ministers at their 18th Meeting in December this year. We also agreed to endorse the Joint Action Plan to implement the Memorandum of Understanding for Joint Action to Reduce HIV Vulnerability Associated with Population Movement which our GMS Leaders signed at their Fourth Summit last year. These are milestone developments that provide the guideposts for our cooperation over the next several years.

As your Chair, allow me to express my heartfelt thanks to all the resource persons, the delegates from the GMS countries, and the representatives of development partners for your active participation and contribution to our discussions. I also wish to thank the ADB secretariat team led by our Co-Chair for their invaluable support, dedication, and hard work which helped ensure the success of our meeting.

We hope that all of you enjoyed your brief stay here in Yangon and we look forward to seeing you again in the near future. We wish you a safe and pleasant journey back home.

Thank you.