

**Summary of Discussions
Fourteenth Meeting of the
Regional Power Trade Coordination Committee (RPTCC-14)
Kunming, Yunnan Province, People's Republic of China, 18–19 June 2013**

A. Objectives

1. The RPTCC-14 Meeting was held to: (i) give updates on GMS countries' latest power development plans; (ii) review and endorse the Regional Investment Framework (RIF) pipeline of energy projects under the new GMS Strategic Framework (2012-2022); (iii) discuss the applications for the venue of the Regional Power Coordination Center (RPCC); (iv) review the Articles of Association of the RPCC; and, (v) discuss future assistance from development partners to the GMS' energy sector.
2. The RPTCC-14 Meeting was held in Kunming, People's Republic of China (PRC) on 18 to 19 June 2013, co-organized by PRC's National Energy Administration (NEA) and China Southern Power Grid (CSG) in cooperation with the Asian Development Bank (ADB). It was attended by five of six members of the RPTCC, as well as by representatives of ADB, Agence Francais de Developpement (AFD), and the World Bank. The Government of Myanmar was unable to attend due to other in-country commitments. Attached is the list of participants of the RPTCC-14 meeting (Annex 2).
3. The RPTCC-14 Meeting was chaired by Mr. Victor Jona, Deputy Director General, Department of Energy, Ministry of Industry, Mines and Energy (MIME), Cambodia. Ms. June Yang, Director, NEA, PRC acted as vice chair.

B. Opening Session

4. Mr. Jona Victor, Chair, RPTCC-14, welcomed all participants to the meeting. He stressed GMS' keen interest in alternative energy development, and described Cambodia's own efforts towards developing biomass, solar and small-scale hydropower plants. In connection, Cambodia is expecting that hydropower will contribute 70% of the country's total installed capacity by 2020 (vs. 30% contribution from coal). MIME specifically encourages the development of environmentally and socially acceptable energy resources, beyond its mandate to develop reliable power supply aimed at reducing electricity cost, supporting the country's national economic development. He concluded by describing the benefits of regional power cooperation, but stressed that this should be pursued within the context of balancing development and environment in the GMS.
5. His Excellency, Shi Yubo, Vice Administrator, NEA, welcomed all participants to Kunming and thanked the GMS countries and development partners for their participation in the meeting. He recounted the region's progress in the last 20 years, from commitments to cross-border power trading, to development of enhanced power

infrastructure, to promoting grid integration between countries, and finally to the facilitation of bilateral power trading. He then highlighted the GMS' energy sector's direction for the next 10 years per the Vientiane Plan of Action (VPOA), and the new GMS Strategic Framework (2012-2022).

6. Specifically, he expounded that GMS should (i) facilitate sustainable power development, highlighting environment protection, rationalized hydropower development, and proactive renewable energy (RE) development among others; (ii) strengthen software development enabling GMS power cooperation; and (iii) promote RPCC establishment toward fostering a GMS power market. In this regard, he guaranteed that GMS countries will not be disappointed should Kunming win the bid to host the RPCC. He eagerly looked forward to all six GMS countries signing the Inter-governmental Memorandum of Understanding (IGM) for the Establishment of RPCC in GMS, recognizing that five countries have already signed. PRC extended its support to all GMS countries in realizing this agenda by offering the country's technologies and experiences on RE, advanced grid and low-carbon development; as well as by establishing the Regional Knowledge Sharing Initiative (RKSI) in cooperation with ADB.

7. In conclusion, he anticipated that RPTCC-14 would result in a sound institutional framework for RPCC, appropriate infrastructure investments and technical assistance under the RIF, and a better blueprint for sustainable GMS energy development informed by the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) discussions to follow.

8. Mr. Jong-Inn Kim, Officer-in-Charge, Southeast Asian Energy Division, Asian Development Bank, welcomed the guest and thanked the hosts of RPTCC-14. He highlighted the expansion of the GMS from 20 years of focusing on regional power trade and grid interconnection, to today including RE deployment, energy efficiency (EE) promotion, and increased energy access, as expounded in the GMS Road Map for Expanded Energy Cooperation placed into effect in 2009. Following a list of achievements, he proposed that the challenge facing the GMS energy sector today is how to graduate from importing and exporting specific electricity sources between two GMS countries, to trading power involving a third country, and eventually into synchronous power operation in the GMS. Toward this end, various institutional milestones are expected in 2013, including advancements in the work plans of the Working Group on Performance Standards and Grid Code (WGPG) and the Working Group on Regulatory Issues (WGRI), the establishment of the RPCC (including the finalization of its Articles of Association), and the continued investment of development partners in sustaining these initiatives. Together with the RIF, these matters have been tabled for discussion at RPTCC-14 to build a consensus among the GMS countries on the best way forward, aimed at achieving regional energy cooperation and a genuine GMS power trade market.

C. Country Updates of Power Development Programs: Focus on Cross Border Projects (Annex 3)

9. **Cambodia.** The presentation by MIME recounted the tasks it carried out to further GMS' power cooperation agenda. Following an overview of the power sector, Cambodia presented actual and future interconnection points with its neighboring countries under its 5-year Electricity Power Development Plan (2011-2015). The main strategy under the plan is to reduce Cambodia's generation cost and increase its electrification rate by, among others, importing lower cost power sources from its neighbors, and constructing large-scale hydropower, coal and gas. In 2012, total electricity supply increased to 3,525 Gigawatt-hours (GWh), including 753 Megawatt (MW) installed capacity and 58% imported electricity. The electricity supply mix is changing significantly due to a policy encouraging private sector participation in cross-border power imports.

10. **PRC.** CSG gave a brief introduction on PRC's power industry, including an overview on installed capacities for hydropower, nuclear, wind, solar photovoltaic, and biomass. This was followed by a brief report on CSG operations in 2012, including power exchange between CSG and Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR), Myanmar and Viet Nam, as well as an update on CSG's revised 12th-Five-Year Plan (2010-2015). CSG concluded with an update on GMS cooperation projects with Cambodia (3), Lao PDR (7), Myanmar (12), and Viet Nam (3); as well as on bilateral talks with Thailand (including on the PRC-Lao PDR-Thailand 500 kV transmission project).

11. **PRC** also took the opportunity to indicate that it is improper to use the isolated data of Yunnan and Guangxi to optimize the power trades and plan interconnections between GMS countries. From a technical perspective, CSG operates a highly meshed transmission grid, deeply involved in GMS power trade as a whole, and cannot be separated subjectively. ADB clarified that only Guangxi and Yunnan were identified by the Government of PRC and CSG as falling under GMS cooperation, making it difficult to expand coverage to the other three provinces under CSG's operations, and asking for CSG's understanding on the matter. ADB does recognize that there are issues surrounding isolating the data of the two provinces, and is open to discussing the principle further in the future, as deemed necessary.

12. **Lao PDR.** The Ministry of Energy and Mines (MEM) gave an overall update on Lao PDR's country power development program. Total installed capacity is at 2,971 MW, comprising 2,149 MW for IPP export, and 821.1 MW for domestic consumption. Projects under construction total 5,489.5 MW, comprising 3,994 MW for Independent Power Producer (IPP) export to Thailand and Viet Nam, and 1,495.5 MW for domestic consumption. In conclusion, MEM highlighted two 500 kV cross-border interconnections with the Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand (EGAT) through 2020, namely, MK-Xayabuly and Pakse-Uban3.

13. **Thailand.** EGAT described its total contracted capacity of 32,781 MW by plant type and by producer, as well as its total energy generation (estimated at 42,834 GWh) by fuel type, as of 31 March 2013. EGAT summed up its power purchases from Cambodia (unspecified capacity per Memorandum of Understanding), PRC (3,000 MW), Lao PDR (7,000 MW), and Myanmar (1,500 MW). Thailand is projecting 5,427 MW in power interconnection purchases from its neighbors spanning 2013-2019, comprising 2,111 MW from completed projects; 3,047 MW from signed power purchase agreements (PPA) and projects under construction; and, 269 MW from projects under PPA preparation.

14. In response to questions, Thailand made several separate clarifications. First, the country set 15% of total generating capacity as the maximum power import from neighboring countries from 2020 to 2030 based on ensuring that Thailand had sufficient reserve margin. Second, regarding the 29,132 GWh of natural gas comprising over 68% of Thailand's total energy generation by fuel type, about 1/3 is sourced from Myanmar, and 2/3 from the Gulf of Thailand. Finally, Thailand considers all hydropower projects as RE projects, recognizing that the country's civil society disagrees and prefers to distinguish hydropower from other renewable energy sources.

15. **Viet Nam.** The Electricity Regulatory Authority of Viet Nam (ERAV) gave an overview of its present power system, describing its peak load, energy demand and electricity consumptions; as well as the country's current and projected installed capacity, and transmission network. As of June 2013, Viet Nam has 27,339 MW of installed capacity provided mostly by hydropower (45%), gas turbine (28%) and coal-fired thermal (19%). Per the country's Power Development Plan 2011-2020 (Master Plan VII), approved by the Prime Minister in 2011, Viet Nam's installed capacity will be at 75,000 MW by 2020 and 146,800 MW by 2030, decreasing hydropower's share to 26% then 16%, and gas turbine's share to 16% then 12%, while increasing coal fired thermal to 48% then 52%. This compares with over 16,000 MW of peak load by end-2011, increasing to 52,040 MW by 2020 and 110,215 MW by 2030. ERAV concluded with an update of its interconnection projects, featuring current and future interconnections with Cambodia, PRC, and LAO PDR.

D. Endorsement of Proposed Project Pipeline for Energy Sector under the Regional Investment Framework (RIF) (Annex 4)

16. ADB facilitated the discussions on GMS' RIF energy sector pipeline, comprising 16 proposed investment projects (about \$4.4 billion), and 8 proposed technical assistance projects (about \$13.5 million). After contextualizing the principles and strategy behind the RIF, ADB summarized the consultation process undergone by the pipeline to arrive at the present status of having received comments from three out of the six GMS countries. ADB characterized the pipeline as a continuous work in progress, and as an investment guide rather than an investment commitment, important to mobilizing resources from development partners, and even the private sector.

17. The rest of the session was dedicated to reviewing each project and ranking it according to high, medium or low priority. The countries agreed to the following definitions:

- i. **High.** The investment is in line with national priorities and is reflected in the national plan of the government, and is likewise reflected in the GMS Regional Master Plan.
- ii. **Medium.** The investment is reflected in the national plan(s), but not in the GMS Regional Master Plan.
- iii. **Low.** The investment is not reflected in the national plan(s).

18. **Discussions and Outcome.** Based on these criteria, the results of the prioritization of energy investments under the RIF are found in Annex 4. There was some discussion on first revisiting the master plan, as well as the value of the pipeline and the prioritization of projects. ADB acknowledged that the GMS Regional Master Plan, based on 2009 information, may need updating in 2013, but can still serve as a good reference. Given that country programs are changing even now, decision-making should be based on the best available information rather than the most updated accurate information, as the principle. ADB further qualified that the RIF pipeline is necessarily a rolling pipeline to be revisited habitually because priorities of countries change regularly. It is valuable as a broad-based guide on future directions, and to determine what is regionally possible within the new GMS Strategic Framework (2012-2022). As such, it will give an idea on the highest and lowest prioritized projects to be considered by development partners and the private sector for financial support. While each project will need feasibility studies to move forward, these will be carried out only after financiers have committed to the project. It was separately noted that GMS interconnections are prominent in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) power grid master plan.

19. **Onward endorsement.** ADB requested the GMS countries to provide additional information and clarifications on some projects. The updated RIF energy project pipeline (Annex 4) will be presented during the 5th GMS Economic Corridors Forum (ECF) to be held on 7 August 2012 in Bangkok, Thailand. GMS countries should send their comments and additional information, if any, to Mr. Jong-Inn Kim <jkim@adb.org> with copy to Ms. Nida Nieto <tnieto@adb.org> by end of June 2013.

E. Venue for the Headquarters of the RPCC (Annexes 5 and 6)

20. **Progress Update on the Intergovernmental Memorandum of Understanding (IGM) Establishing the RPCC in the GMS.** ADB gave a progress update on the establishment of the RPCC. As of RPTCC-14, five of the six countries have signed the IGM for the Establishment of the RPCC in the GMS. Most recently, the Government of Myanmar signed the IGM on 7 June 2013. Thailand reported confidence that their in-country approval process will be completed by end-2013. Following approval from Thailand's National Energy Council on 8 March 2013, the IGM was submitted to various

members of cabinet in light of the IGM's overall impact on the country's economy. On 25 June 2013, it will be resubmitted to the cabinet members supplemented by their requested information. After successful iteration at this level, the approval from the Parliament House of Thailand will be facilitated. The first meeting of the parliament is scheduled in August 2013.

21. Discussion on Bids to Host the RPCC headquarters. Two matters were discussed thoroughly pertaining to the RPCC's headquarters. These were: (a) considering Lao PDR's bid submitted in May 2013, after the deadline for submission set on 30 September 2012; and, (b) the timing of opening the bids to host the RPCC. Regarding the timing, the options proposed follow below (in all cases evaluation of the bids by the panel comprising ADB, AFD, World Bank and the Australian Agency for International Development [AusAID] will take 3 to 4 weeks):

- i. Presently open the bids for evaluation.
- ii. Wait for Thailand's signing of the IGM, then immediately open the bids for evaluation. The successful bid will be announced in the next scheduled RPTCC.
- iii. Open the bid during the next scheduled RPTCC, following Thailand's signing of the IGM.

22. PRC specifically stressed the need for transparency in the evaluation process, and for objective vs. subjective evaluation based on clearly specified criteria and defined procedures. In this regard, the document detailing the evaluation committee's terms of reference, rules of procedure, evaluation criteria and rating methodology signed during the RPTCC-12 meeting was distributed (Annex 6).

23. Agreements and next steps on bids to host the RPCC headquarters. After much deliberation, Thailand had no objection to review Lao PDR's bid. Viet Nam demurred to the seriousness of the required deadline for the submission of bids but expressed that Viet Nam will not join the bid. As a pending issue, PRC will send a formal written feedback at the soonest time on their position. All GMS countries also agreed to distributing copies of the bid proposals to all countries immediately after the bid is opened.

F. Discussions on the Proposed Articles of Association for the RPCC (Annex 7 and 8)

24. Updates to the RPCC Articles of Association (AA). Michel Caubet, ADB consultant, presented the latest version of the proposed RPCC AA. Specifically, changes to the following articles were discussed:

- i. Article 9: The Board of RPCC
- ii. Article 10: The Executive Director
- iii. Article 11: The Technical Groups

- iv. Article 12: The RPCC Administration
- v. Article 19: Suspension of Participation – Exclusion (newly included article)

25. **Agreements on the RPCC Articles of Association (AA).** GMS countries agreed that the task of producing a final version of the RPCC AA for adoption falls on the RPCC Board to be established. Meanwhile, the RPTCC may still help facilitate the process by initiating in-country discussions with other concerned ministries and utilities on the present version of the RPCC AA, such as on matters of country representation to the RPCC Board and contributions to the RPCC. In connection, it was agreed that ADB will send a formal communications to the GMS countries requesting for comments on the draft RPCC AA within two months, to help start the consultation process. These comments may be taken up in succeeding RPTCC meetings, if deemed necessary. Otherwise, the RPCC AA and further comments will be tabled for consideration by the RPCC board at their first meeting.

G. Updates on Working Groups

26. **WGPG Status and Next Steps.** Thailand, Chair, WGPG (co-chaired by PRC), reported on the outcomes of the 3rd Meeting of the WGPG (WGPG-3) held on 3 to 4 June 2013 in Hanoi, Viet Nam. The meeting took up the results of the gap analysis on performance standards for each GMS country. After completing the study on performance standards, WGPG will now proceed with the study on transmission regulations in 2013-2014. Specifically, the following subjects will be tackled in sequence:

- i. Policy on communication infrastructure
- ii. Policy on data exchanges
- iii. Policy on scheduling and accounting
- iv. Policy on coordinated operational planning

27. This will be followed by analyses on standard regional metering arrangements (also in 2013 to 2014). Finally, the GMS Grid Code (Operational Procedures) will be studied in 2014 to 2015. WGPG-4 will be held in Cambodia later this year.

28. ADB added that within the next six months, the results of the gap analyses will be summarized in same form, to facilitate cross-comparison between GMS countries. Likewise, an implementation schedule will be considered, determining which investments can be deferred and which investments are critical (including the scale of these investments) to be carried out in time for project implementation. ADB will help engage consultants to prepare the identified four policies on transmission regulation in parallel within the next six months, while the standard regional metering arrangements will be considered only after 6 months. Overall, the WGPG's way forward and resource requirements are fairly clear.

29. **WGRI Status.** PRC, Chair, WGRI (with Viet Nam as Co-Chair) reported on the progress for the working group. During its 1st Meeting held in Kunming, PRC in June 2012, the WGRI agreed to conduct the following studies on:

- v. Cross-border power trade pricing mechanism (a high priority per ADB)
- vi. Power trading rules

30. Chair, WGRI observed that there has been minimal movement since the 2nd Meeting of the WGRI at Yangon, Myanmar in November 2012. PRC reasoned that WGRI's TOR and role is not clearly defined because the GMS countries are still unclear on the path towards a regional power market. All countries submitted responses to a questionnaire on regulatory barriers, and are presently waiting on the results.

31. Chair, WGRI proposed the following matters for consideration:

- i. Should WGRI focus on urgent tasks versus TOR in the interim, until GMS countries are clearer on the type of power market it wants to establish in the region?
- ii. Should a 3rd Meeting of the WGRI be convened?

32. Chair, WGRI suggested that the working group is not yet in a position to carry out initiatives, and continues to look to ADB for leadership. The continued support from AFD and Sida was especially appreciated and hopes that it will finance some studies. To work more effectively, Chair, WGRI proposed that the working group needs more out-of-meeting communications among countries, with ADB, and between WGRI's Chair (PRC) and Vice-Chair (Viet Nam).

33. Chair, RPTCC-14 recognized that harmonizing regulations and regional technical standards are big tasks not only in the GMS but in the entire ASEAN. ADB added that there have been several studies completed under RETA 6440, but GMS countries have a weak absorptive capacity for them. ADB recounted that two task forces were established to address such concerns:

- i. Task force for transmission pricing mechanism, including wheeling charge for third party access. Chair: PRC; Co-Chairs: Lao PDR and Thailand.
- ii. Task force for power trade rules in short-term cross-border trading. Chair: Viet Nam; Co-Chairs: Cambodia and Thailand (to be confirmed).

34. ADB further recounted that WGRI agreed to two activities: (a) undertake a study on regulatory barriers to power trade in implementing Stage 2; and, (b) complete the study on Stage 2 regulations. It was reminded that Stage 2 is defined as a stage where power exchange or trade between two countries through a third country exists. The details of both studies have to be discussed further. Although the two task forces have been formed and the studies identified, WGRI members have yet to agree on the next steps to be taken. ADB concluded that unless WGRI's TOR is finalized, further

progress and resource mobilization may be difficult, noting that ongoing discussions with development partners have yet to be finalized.

35. **Agreements on Next Steps for WGRI.** In response to a query from ADB, World Bank will communicate with ADB after RPTCC-14 on the possibility of assisting in the WGRI's activities. Historically, the World Bank has engaged in regulatory issues in the region which opens the possibility for World Bank to be involved again. ADB gratefully acknowledged that more resources will help in knowledge generation that aids decision-making. ADB can continue to support further studies needed if the other development partners prefer to channel their resources to implementation.

36. **ADB Focal Persons.** ADB advised that the focal persons supporting GMS energy cooperation from its Southeast Asia Energy Division are now as follows: Jong-Inn Kim for RPTCC, Aruna Wanniachchi Kankanamalage, Senior Energy Specialist, for WGPG, and Duy-Thanh Bui, Senior Energy Economist, for WGRI.

H. Future Assistance (Annex 9 and 10)

TA Ensuring Sustainability of GMS Sector Power Development – Proposed Phase II

37. After reviewing the background and rationale for the ongoing Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in the GMS (phase I, RETA 7664), AFD proposed a phase II to strengthen policy dialogue on SEA among GMS countries (to receive AFD support amounting to EUR 1 million). Specifically, phase II comprises the following components:

- i. Component 1. Capacity building.
- ii. Component 2. SEA approach applied to a national power development plan (PDP).
- iii. Component 3. Best practices to increase the share of intermittent energy.
- iv. Component 4. Further integration of energy efficiency as negawatt.

38. ADB added that the proposed component 1 and component 2 are continuing activities following the ongoing RETA 7664. Component 3 (involving smart grids) and component 4 (on energy efficiency) are new activity themes, and are not country-specific (unlike component 2). AFD specifically highlighted the opportunities in Phase II to share experiences among GMS countries, and between GMS countries and the broader international community. For instance, an environmental assessment was carried out on Viet Nam's 7th PDP, and this experience could be shared with the other GMS countries. PRC (and Thailand) also have significant experience in integrating intermittent wind and solar energy into the grid and can share its experience on this topic which is traditionally weakly supported.

39. It was clarified that AFD's phase II, while focused on the RPTCC, the power sector, and PDPs, would complement the work of the Subregional Energy Forum (SEF) on energy development, as well as the initiatives under the RIF which include RE, EE, and cleaner fuel projects eventually falling under SEF. Specifically on EE, two approaches are available – promoting EE across the sector to reduce energy and power outputs, as well as to have more demand response solutions. In this regard, AFD suggested that the GMS countries could consider a pilot aggregating industrial demand.

40. **Discussions on Phase II Relevance to GMS Countries.** The GMS countries discussed the various merits of the proposed phase II. Based on its own experience, now wanting to decrease the country's carbon and energy intensity, PRC suggested that the proposed phase II are relevant even for GMS countries with low electrification rates to consider at this early stage, not only in PDPs, but also in the economic and social development plans. (These should be considered within the context of the renewable energy potential in the GMS countries.) Cambodia and Viet Nam shared interest in the support phase II could provide to national scenario building and decision-making. Even now, Thailand is looking to enhance its smart grid development. All GMS countries were interested in phase II's contribution to enhancing national PDPs.

41. **Conclusion.** Chair, RPTCC-14 summed that Phase II is important to all GMS countries. Cambodia and Thailand expressed interest for component 2, in applying SEA approach to their national PDP. For emphasis, only 4% of the 8% ASEAN connectivity target for reduced energy intensity by 2015 has been achieved. AFD's proposed Phase II will be helpful to the GMS countries in helping meet its obligations to ASEAN.

Sida's Proposed Assistance to WGPG and WGRI

42. ADB presented the current proposal under discussion with Sida, who could not attend RPTCC-14 due to a prior engagement. The proposal is intended to continue support for the RPTCC and the key institutional structures in moving forward with regional power trade, such as the RPCC and the working groups. Sida may commit up to \$1.5 million.

43. **Proposed Tasks for Sida Support.** ADB proposed to consider the development of a methodology for calculating a wheeling charge as one activity. The Consultant for RETA 6440 noted that Sida may support WGPG's tasks as already defined. Regarding WGRI's tasks, Sida's support could tackle three main issues: (a) third party access, (b) wheeling charge, and (c) taxation of trade in the region. The support could also help WGRI determine its role at the regional and national levels. For instance, WGRI could lead activities at the regional level and monitor activities at the national level.

44. **Discussion on a Proposed Advisor to the Working Groups.** ADB reported Sida's suggestion to provide a qualified advisor for each working group. PRC, (also Chair, WGRI) appreciated Sida's suggestion for an advisor, and was especially

interested in a professional advisor on regulatory issues which would be useful in helping WGRI define its tasks. Most GMS countries concurred. Thailand (also Chair, WGPG) appreciated Sida's suggestion but requested for clarifications on the advisor's role in the working group. Chair, WGPG suggested that WGPG may not need an advisor similarly as WGRI. World Bank confirmed that they are capable of engaging WGRI on regulatory issues matters but will still have to discuss internally the extent of its support, and the tasks it will potentially cover. Chair, WGRI declared that even without a formal technical assistance, the World Bank's advice, and that of other development partners, would be most welcome, especially on the consolidated regulatory barriers solicited by the consultant to RETA 6440. ADB cautioned too many inputs may bring confusion instead of clarification, especially when there is still no common agreement among GMS countries on the format of a future GMS power market.

45. Agreements and Next Steps. ADB will continue to communicate with Sida on the proposed assistance to WGPG and WGRI, noting the GMS countries' comments received at RPTCC-14. The Consultant for RETA 6440 will draft a report by mid-July 2013 on the specific regulatory issues to be tackled. This will accompany the consolidated table of GMS countries' regulatory barriers (i.e., response to the questionnaire completed by WGRI focals) made available for dissemination on 24 December 2012. ADB will disseminate the report (and consolidated table) once available. WGRI-3 may be held in August 2013.

I. Closing Session

46. Next Meeting and Venue. GMS countries agreed that Viet Nam would host RPTCC-15 during the 4th quarter of 2013. Viet Nam graciously accepted the responsibility, declaring that it would coordinate with ADB on further details, including on the specific host city and meeting dates, to be announced in the near future.

47. Closing Session. Vice-Chair, RPTCC-14, summarized the proceedings of the RPTCC-14 as follows:

- i. Five GMS countries updated their power development plans.
- ii. GMS countries discussed all the projects under the RIF. ADB promised to confirm some information on some of the projects, and lead further improvements on the RIF.
- iii. Two issues were raised on the RPCC venue: (a) to accept Lao PDR's bid proposal; and, (b) to wait for Thailand's signing of the IGM before opening the bid. Majority of the countries expressed their ideas, and PRC will provide formal written feedback as soon as possible.
- iv. The AA underwent another round of formal comments by each GMS country, and in the next two months, ADB will receive further comments from countries. RPTCC-15 may discuss on how to proceed further with the AA.

- v. WGPG and WGRI updated the GMS countries on the progress in their respective working groups.
- vi. AFD presented another SEA-related proposal. ADB informed the GMS countries on possible support from Sida on activities of two working groups. ADB will continue communicating with Sida on materializing the support.
- vii. RPTCC-15 will be held in Viet Nam. The timing and the host city will be further discussed by Viet Nam with ADB.

48. Chair, RPTCC-14 thanked all delegations from the GMS countries and the development partners present at RPTCC-14 for their active participation in, contribution to, and guidance on establishing a GMS regional power market. The Chair especially recognized the host, PRC, specifically NEA and CSG, for the excellent arrangements and warm hospitality. He concluded by recognizing that establishing a GMS power market is a hard job. GMS countries have been working at it together for more than two decades, requiring huge investments. However, with strong cooperation among stakeholders the region is assured that the GMS power market will be put into operation in the near future. After reminding participants that RPTCC-15 will be in Viet Nam with details announced later, the meeting was declared closed, and everyone was thanked for their cooperation.