



GMS **7** **SUMMIT**

PHNOM PENH, CAMBODIA
9 SEPTEMBER 2021

GMS: Renewed Strength to Face the Challenges of the New Decade

Report on Recent Outcomes of GMS Cooperation

Scope of the Report

- I. Achievements since last GMS Summit under the Ha Noi Action Plan 2018-2022, and Response to COVID-19 pandemic**
- II. Completion of Key Strategic and Planning Documents:**
 - 1. The New GMS Strategic Framework 2030
 - 2. The GMS COVID-19 Response and Recovery Plan 2021-2023



GMS Sectoral Achievements

Health Cooperation

GMS Health Community Rapidly Mobilized to Respond to COVID-19.

- **GMS Health Cooperation Strategy 2019-2023** launched in October 2019.
- **To mitigate the impact of the COVID-19** the GMS health community was mobilized to respond rapidly:
 - Financing for procurement of materials and medical equipment for diagnosis and protection.
 - Training and capacity building.





Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change

Environmental Sustainability and Robust Response to Climate Change Remains a Key Priority for the GMS Program.

- Sustainable infrastructure
- Climate resilience
- Disaster risk management
- Facilitating low carbon transitions
- Promotion of green technologies and financing instruments





Transport

Transport Infrastructure Remains the Backbone of the GMS Program.

- **Transport Infrastructure** remained a priority under the Program.
- **11 GMS projects** valued at **\$2 billion** were completed between 2018-2021.
- The **Greater Mekong Railway Association** is working to complete GMS rail connectivity.





Establishing a Robust GMS Regional Power Market

- Creation of a GMS Regional power market
 - Regional grid code
 - Harmonized performance standards
 - Regulatory framework
- Work is underway for the next GMS Regional Power Master Plan:
 - Greater integration of renewable energies in countries' energy development.

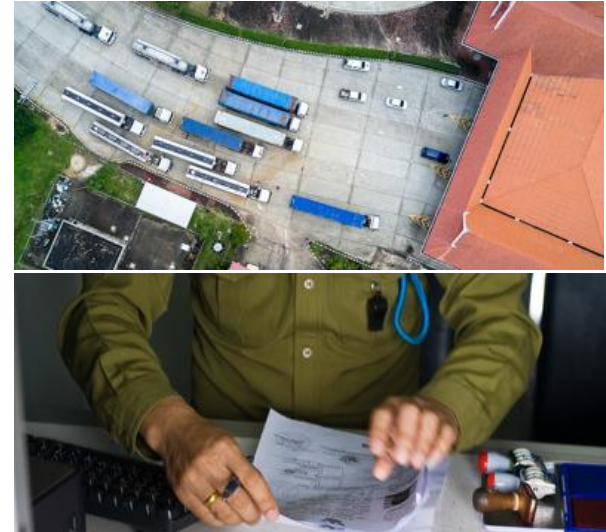




Trade and Transport Facilitation

GMS Program's Strong Focus on Cross-Border Trade

- **“Early Harvest” implementation** of the Cross-Border Transport Facilitation Agreement launched in August 2018.
- **Improved customs** operations.
- During the pandemic, the GMS Program has worked to ensure **vital cross-border movements**.



Agriculture

GMS Program is Committed to Support Agricultural Sector

- **The GMS Program supported:**
 - Enhanced food security
 - Harmonization of food safety and quality standards
 - Livelihoods in the rural areas
 - Control of transboundary animal diseases
 - Access to climate friendly, green agribusiness value chains



Tourism

GMS Tourism Attained Unprecedented Success before COVID-19

- Promoted secondary tourism destinations, startup firms, technology innovations, and tourism vocational training.



- GMS supported COVID-19 mitigating measures.
- GMS countries agreed to enhance status of Mekong Tourism Coordinating Office as international organization.
- Mekong Tourism Recovery Communications Plan has been prepared.



Urban Development

GMS Program's Commitment to Develop Border, Corridor Towns, and Livable Cities

- Revised approach to the development of **corridor towns**, focusing on the economically connected areas of border cities and anchor cities.
- Financing underway for developing **livable cities**.
- Initiative to expand GMS countries' efforts to promote **Healthy Oceans and Sustainable Blue Economies**.



In line with Ha Noi Action Plan 2018-2022, the GMS Program has:



Completed a multisector strategy and action plan for a border area.



Promoted domestic connectivity to expand opportunities for local populations living in rural areas and small towns nearby corridors.

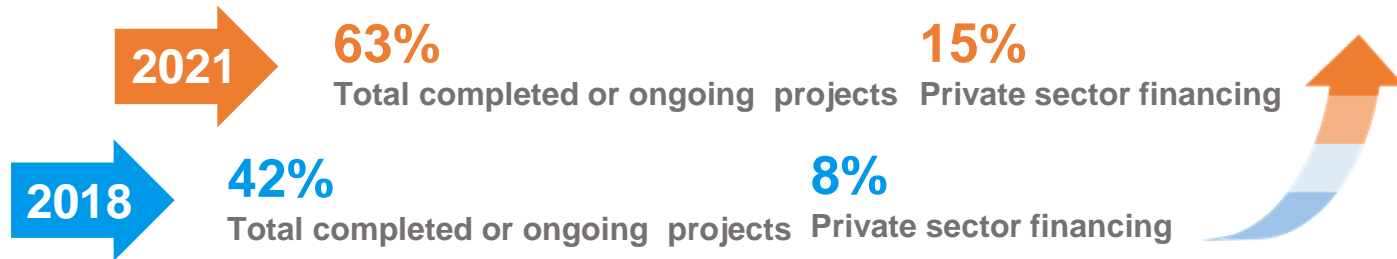


Organized GMS Economic Corridors Forums, with stakeholders from private sector and local governments.

**GMS Program Has Achieved Focused Spatial Strategy for
Development and Expansion of Economic Corridors**





Regional Investment Framework 2022

- Improved coverage, principles, and processes.
- Work on results and monitoring framework is underway.
- **204 projects** worth **\$78 billion** with **76% financing identified**.



Projects-based Approach: A Critical Strength of the GMS Program

Institutional Arrangements and Partnerships

-  **Greater flexibility** in addressing emerging concerns and requirements
-  **Strengthened role** of the Senior Officials' Meeting and Ministerial Conference
-  Expanded focus on **knowledge dissemination**
-  **Enhanced partnerships** with development partners and private sector

Strengthened GMS Institutional Arrangements and Partnerships

GMS Economic Cooperation Program Strategic Framework 2030 (GMS-2030) - Proposed for Endorsement

(1 / 3)

GMS-2030: In-Depth Discussions and Vetting by GMS Countries

- Based on a **solid assessment** of key trends, challenges and opportunities, and on **shared values, interests and principles**.
- The proposed GMS-2030 has undergone **extensive consultations with GMS countries** including two Ministerial Conferences.



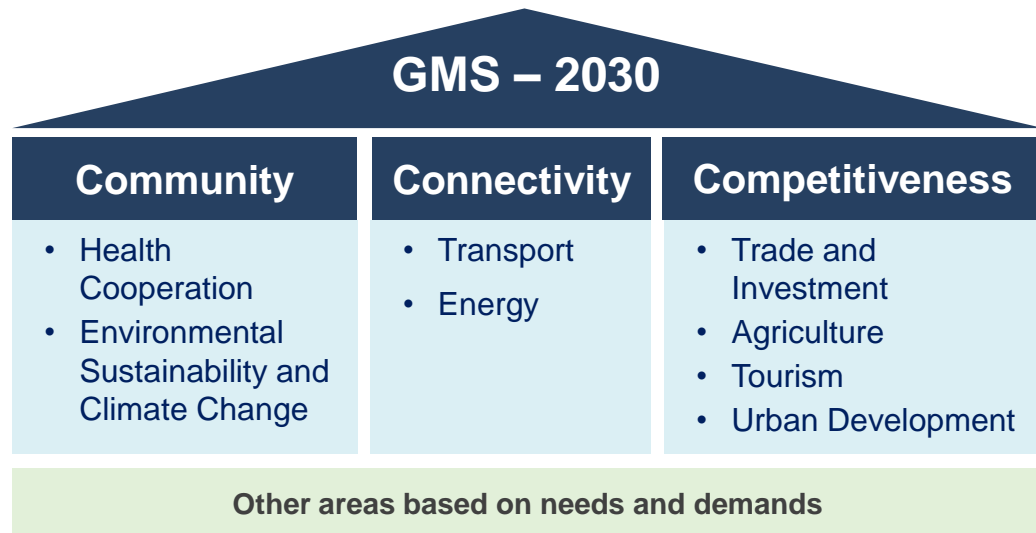
GMS Economic Cooperation Program Strategic Framework 2030 (GMS-2030) - Proposed for Endorsement

(2 / 3)



Vision

“A more integrated, prosperous, sustainable, and inclusive subregion”



GMS-2030 Builds on the Core Strengths of the Program

GMS Economic Cooperation Program Strategic Framework 2030 (GMS-2030) - Proposed for Endorsement

(3 / 3)



Mission

“A subregional cooperation program focused on its fundamental strengths of community, connectivity, and competitiveness, while embracing the core principles of environmental sustainability and resilience, internal and external integration, and inclusivity, for building a GMS community with a bright shared future.”



6 Innovative Approaches

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Digital Revolution | 4. Private Sector |
| 2. Spatial Approach | 5. GMS Open Platform |
| 3. Policy Dialogue | 6. Focus on Results |

GMS 2030 Aims to Retain and Strengthen the Relevance and Effectiveness of the GMS Program in the Face of New Challenges

GMS COVID-19 Response and Recovery Plan 2021-2023

Proposed for Endorsement

(1 / 2)

- **Health impact of COVID-19 was initially relatively mild** in the GMS due to the GMS countries' prompt, sound and science-based containment actions.
- **GMS faces adverse economic impact**, with reduced consumption and investment, increased unemployment and a risk to increases in poverty and inequality.



Urgent Need to Respond to the COVID-19 Pandemic in the GMS

GMS COVID-19 Response and Recovery Plan 2021-2023

Proposed for Endorsement

(2 / 2)

The GMS COVID-19 Plan responds to GMS Countries' Immediate Needs to Mitigate the Impact of the Pandemic.

- It will **supplement the GMS-2030**, and has three strategic pillars:
 - **A 'One Health' approach:** healthy people, animals, crops, food products, and cities.
 - **Protecting the vulnerable and poor**, and safe and orderly labor movement and management.
 - **Keeping borders open and accelerating economic recovery.**



Conclusion



Continued and committed support of ADB and other Development Partners in providing financial and knowledge support to the GMS Program.



Increased engagement of private sector.





Thank you!

