

**High-level launching of the Greater Mekong Subregion Health Security Project
(6 July 2017, Bangkok, Thailand)**

CONCEPT NOTE

Title of Event

High-level launching of the Greater Mekong Sub-region Health Security Project

Rationale

1. Multiple factors contribute to spreading communicable diseases in the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS). Economic growth in the GMS, increasing mobile population, improving trade and intensified human-animal interaction all contribute to emerging disease outbreaks. Weaknesses in the public health systems are threats to health security in the GMS.

2. Following the recommendation of the 4th GMS summit and the signing of declaration on the ADB Health Strategy in the GMS during the Country Consultation on ADB's Health Strategy in the GMS held in Hanoi (9 December 2015), Cambodia, the Lao PDR, Myanmar and Vietnam (CLMV) requested ADB support for health security in the GMS. The People's Republic of China and Thailand also signed an aide memoire to continue to support and strengthen regional health initiatives during the country consultation. Proposed initiatives included knowledge and information sharing, leveraging financial support for cross-border communicable disease control and improving collaboration for health security in the GMS.

3. After conducting a series of consultations and project preparatory technical assistance, ADB Board approved the GMS Health Security Project, a \$125 million loan and grant for CLMV countries in November 2016. The project has three outputs: (i) to improve regional cooperation and communicable disease control in border areas; (ii) to strengthen disease surveillance and outbreak response systems, and (iii) to improve laboratory services and hospital infection prevention control in the GMS. The duration of the project will be 5 years, from 2017 to 2022.

4. Without countries' ownership, commitment and dedication, the outputs of GMS Health Security Project may not be achievable. Therefore, high-level advocacy, commitments and collaboration of GMS Member States is crucial for successful implementation.

Objectives

5. The overall objective of this high-level health ministers' gathering is to officially launch the GMS Health Security Project and jointly endorse a declaration to improve regional health security and collaboration on future health initiatives in the GMS.

Expected outputs

- GMS Health Security Project is officially launched by health ministers and high level officials from the Cambodia, the Lao PDR, Myanmar and Vietnam. The People's Republic of China, and Thailand will observe the project launching and collaborate on GMS Health Security and other health initiatives.
- Endorse the declaration to achieve the GMS Health Security outputs.
- Identify regional and country priorities for the Health Security Project and future health collaboration in the GMS.

Deliverables

- Agenda of the project launching
- Declaration of the GMS Health Security Project
- Regional priorities for health security and future health collaborations

Venue and Dates

Sofitel Hotel, Sukhumvit, Bangkok, Thailand, 6th July, 2017

Declaration of the GMS Health Security and Future Health Collaboration
(Draft)

Member States commit and declare to improve GMS Health Security as follows:

- Enhance regional, cross-border and intersectoral collaboration through regular information exchange and knowledge sharing and participation in regional meetings, technical forums and cross-border workshops.
- Mobilize national programme resources for communicable diseases control particularly in mobile migrant, ethnic, and other vulnerable groups.
- Strengthen national communicable disease surveillance systems at points of entry along the GMS economic corridor in line with International Health Regulation 2005 and Asia Pacific Strategy for Emerging Infectious Diseases.
- Scale up national outbreak response and surge capacity by training outbreak response teams, procuring vehicles and outbreak response gear, conducting joint training, simulation exercises and outbreak response activities in cross-border areas.
- Improve laboratory services, laboratory biosafety and quality diagnosis at various levels by upgrading laboratory system, conducting necessary training and procuring equipment for laboratories.
- Strengthen hospital infection prevention and control (IPC) by planning and establishing IPC focal points, conducting IPC training for health care workers and provision of safety equipment and supplies for IPC.
- Organize and host regular regional coordination meetings in rotation among GMS countries for GMS Health Security and future health collaboration.

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Tentative Agenda

| Time | Activities |
|----------------------|--|
| 9:00–10:10 am | Opening Remarks (10 mins. per country) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cambodia • People's Republic of China • Lao PDR • Myanmar • Thailand • Viet Nam • ADB |
| 10:10–10:20 am | Ribbon cutting and photo session |
| Coffee Break: | |
| 10:30–10:45 am | Overview of GMS Health Security |
| 10:45–11:00 am | Future health collaborations in the GMS |
| 11:00 –11:15 am | Endorse the declarations for GMS Health Security and Future Health Collaborations |
| 11:15–11:30 am | Closing remarks: Hosting Country (Thailand) and ADB |
| Lunch: | |