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REG: Greater Mekong Subregion Economic Cooperation Program

Joint Summit Declaration: 1st GMS Summit of Leaders

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Asian Development Bank



GREATER MEKONG SUBREGION

GMS SUMMIT Phnom Penh, Cambodia 3 November 2002

Joint GMS Summit Declaration

“Making it Happen: A Common Strategy on Cooperation for Growth, Equity and Prosperity in the Greater Mekong Subregion”

Preamble

We, the Heads of Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia, the People’s Republic of China, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, the Union of Myanmar, the Kingdom of Thailand and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, assembled for the first time in Phnom Penh, Cambodia for the GMS Summit of Leaders on the tenth anniversary of the Program of Economic Cooperation in the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS Program), to reaffirm our commitment to the subregional economic cooperation,

Acknowledging that strong partnerships and cooperation among GMS countries is important in promoting economic and social development, reducing poverty, and protecting the environment,

Convinced of the mutual benefits to be gained from closer trade, investment and other forms of economic cooperation,

Affirm our strong commitment to advancing growth, equity and prosperity in the Greater Mekong Subregion through economic development cooperation.

A Decade of Fruitful Progress

We applaud the significant progress achieved during the first decade of the GMS Program. Through our joint efforts, and with the valuable support of the Asian Development Bank and other development partners, new opportunities for development have been created.

Our most important achievement has been the growing trust and confidence among our countries, which has provided a favorable environment for trade and investment,

economic growth and social well-being. Our key initiative, now at an advanced stage of development, is a transportation network linking the subregion. We have taken measures to facilitate the movement of goods and people across our common borders, to increase the benefits of infrastructure investments. We have succeeded in marketing the GMS as a single tourism destination. We have undertaken energy investments of mutual benefit and agreed to regional power trade arrangements. We have taken measures to better interconnect telecommunications systems in the subregion, which will contribute to reducing the digital divide.

From the outset we have recognized that social and environmental factors are essential for sustainable development. We have agreed on a strategic environmental framework for integrating environmental factors in planning for development. We have taken steps to address shared challenges in human resources development, including education, training and health.

Notably, we have established effective institutional mechanisms for promoting economic cooperation over a wide range of sectors, which is essential for advancing the GMS Program.

Our Vision

Our vision is of a GMS that fulfills its vast potential, freeing people from poverty and providing sustainable development opportunities for all. Our vision is of unity of purpose, where GMS countries are equal partners in the joint pursuit of growth, equity, and prosperity characterized by enhanced mutual understanding and benefits, expanded common ground and friendly consultations. Our vision is of a subregion committed to peace and stability as the foundation for steady economic growth and social progress. Our vision is of a subregion that is competitive in the globalized world, more integrated, harmonious and prosperous.

Our Commitment

To realize our vision, we will integrate GMS development programs in our respective national agenda. We will complete the infrastructure investments needed to strengthen productivity and competitiveness in the GMS. We will complete the transport corridors critical to linking the subregion and promoting trade and investment. We will coordinate our strategies to ensure that transport corridors evolve into economic corridors, enabling agricultural diversification, industrialization and the creation of employment opportunities.

We will accelerate the implementation of “software” arrangements of infrastructure linkages. We will expedite the full implementation of the Framework Agreement for the Facilitation of Cross-border Movement of Goods and People. We will facilitate pilot-testing of single-stop customs inspection with a view to implementing this procedure at our shared borders.

We will accelerate energy development through mutually beneficial initiatives, including implementation of the Intergovernmental Agreement on Regional Power Trade in the GMS. We will develop basic telecommunications infrastructure linking the subregion, in accordance with respective national circumstances, together with the formulation of policy and regulatory frameworks conducive to information and communications technology.

We view the private sector as the engine of growth for the GMS. We will continue to create a favorable trade and investment climate to foster private sector initiative and participation, especially for small and medium enterprises.

We will pursue initiatives to further enhance trade and investment. An action plan on trade and investment facilitation should be formulated including information sharing and capacity building. This will also support the ASEAN-China Free Trade Area and the process of trade liberalization and economic integration of ASEAN.

Such accomplishments will enable the GMS, a market of nearly 300 million people, to take full advantage of its strategic location as a central link for Asia.

We view people as the subregion's most important development resource. We are committed to promoting their fullest potential through joint initiatives for human resource development. Recognizing that poverty cripples human potential, we will strive to meet the millenium goal of halving the incidence of poverty by 2015. We will take joint action to address other areas in developing human potential, including the protection from trafficking of women and children, and combating the spread of HIV/AIDS and illegal drug production and trade.

We welcome and support the GMS Phnom Penh Plan for Development Management for which ADB has provided initial financing. We expect the Program to play a key role in promoting better understanding among the GMS countries as well as in developing the human resources needed to expand and sustain regional cooperation in the GMS.

We must and will better protect our environment. We will take responsibility and leadership for the sustainable management of our national and shared resources. We pledge to implement relevant international agreements on sustainable development including the Kyoto Protocol and the goals advanced at the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

We strongly endorse the Ten-Year Strategic Framework for the GMS Program, and the Eleven Flagship Programs, the key means through which closer economic cooperation and prosperity will be achieved.

Making it Happen – Partnership in Fulfilling the Vision

Our governments, acting together, have a decisive role in fulfilling the shared vision of the GMS. We appreciate the role of bilateral and multilateral development agencies, non-government organizations, the private sector and civil society in helping to make economic cooperation in the GMS a success. We will continue to strengthen our active partnerships with them in pursuing our development goals.

We recognize and appreciate the role of ADB as a catalyst and core supporter of the GMS Program. We call on ADB to continue and broaden its coordinating and supporting role to GMS.

Together, we:

- resolve to intensify our cooperation to realize our individual and combined subregional potentials;
- look forward to strengthening our relationships with development partners and seek their support and participation in our joint efforts in developing the GMS; and
- commit to Making it Happen --- Growth, Equity and Prosperity in the Greater Mekong Subregion.

His Excellency Samdech Hun Sen
Prime Minister, Kingdom of Cambodia

His Excellency Zhu Rongji
Premier of the State Council, People's Republic of China

His Excellency Bounnhang Vorachith
Prime Minister, Lao People's Democratic Republic

His Excellency Senior General Than Shwe
Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council,
Union of Myanmar

His Excellency Thaksin Shinawatra
Prime Minister, Kingdom of Thailand

His Excellency Phan Van Khai
Prime Minister, Socialist Republic of Viet Nam