



**Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS)  
Meeting of Senior Officials of the  
National Transport Facilitation Committee (NTFC)  
and Subcommittee Meetings  
Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar  
4-5 September 2013**

## Introduction

In preparation for the 4<sup>th</sup> Joint Committee Meeting (4<sup>th</sup> JCM) of the Greater Mekong Subregion Cross-Border Transport Agreement (GMS CBTA) in November 2013, the GMS National Transport Facilitation Committee Senior Officials Meeting (NTFC SOM) and Subcommittee Meetings will be held in *Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar* on 4-5 September 2013. The objectives of the meeting are to: i) discuss and finalize the Joint Statement for the six Transport Ministers and the Three-Year Strategic Blueprint/Action Plan for GMS Transport and Trade Facilitation (TTF), ii) provide updates on the status of implementation of transport facilitation initiatives in the GMS, and identify issues and bottlenecks; iii) conduct a stocktaking of the deliverables under the GMS Transport and Trade Facilitation Action Plan from the 3<sup>rd</sup> JCM in June 2010 in Vientiane, Lao PDR and iv) finalize program and agree on arrangements for the upcoming 4<sup>th</sup> JCM.

## Background

*Institutional Mechanisms for Efficient Transport Facilitation in the GMS.* The Joint Committee of the GMS CBTA<sup>1</sup>, NTFCs<sup>2</sup> and its subcommittees<sup>3</sup> were established in 2004 to ensure the orderly and effective implementation of the GMS CBTA<sup>4</sup>, a landmark accord which consolidates in a single legal instrument, all of the key software (non-physical) measures for efficient cross-border land transport. The Joint Committee is the highest-level advisory body for software transport facilitation, which makes recommendations on issues concerning the implementation of transport facilitation initiatives, the CBTA, its annexes and protocols, and related bilateral/trilateral transport facilitation agreements/MOUs. It is also a forum for addressing disputes and a platform for discussing emerging regional issues.

*Joint Committee Meetings.* The GMS countries agreed to host the Joint Committee Meetings every three years (on a rotation basis) to agree on a comprehensive Three-year Action Plan for Transport and Trade Facilitation in order to review progress made and set the direction for the accelerated implementation of TTF initiatives. The previous JCMs were held in: (1) Phnom Penh, Cambodia in April 2004, (2) Beijing, China in March 2007, and (3) Vientiane, Lao PDR in June 2010. The GMS countries agreed that the next 4<sup>th</sup> JCM in 2013 will be held in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar in November 2013 with support from the ADB, its designated Secretariat.

## Outcomes

It is expected that the country delegations will be able to:

- i) Take stock of the implementation status of the GMS CBTA and relevant bilateral/trilateral agreements, identify implementation bottlenecks and ensure that all program deliverables are on track.
- ii) Align the Three- Year Strategic Blueprint/Action Plan for Transport and Trade Facilitation with national and regional priorities and needs.
- iii) Exchange information on transport, customs, immigration and health issues under the GMS CBTA.
- iv) Agree on the program and arrangements for the upcoming 4<sup>th</sup> JCM.

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<sup>1</sup> *The Joint Committee* is headed by Chairpersons (Minister/Vice Minister level) of the 6 National Transport Facilitation Committees in accordance with Article 29 of the CBTA.

<sup>2</sup> *National Transport Facilitation Committees:* the 6 GMS countries were mandated to establish permanent NTFCs chaired by a Minister or Vice Minister (or its equivalent), to bring together representatives of all parties concerned with implementing transport facilitation agreements in accordance with Article 28 of the CBTA.

<sup>3</sup> *Subcommittees* established under the Joint Committee/NTFCs, include: (i) Transport, (ii) Customs, (iii) Health Inspection (Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Quarantine), (iv) and Immigration.

<sup>4</sup> The main CBTA framework agreement was ratified by all the 6 GMS countries in 2003, and its 20 Annexes and Protocols are at various stages of ratification by the countries.



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**Wednesday, 4 September 2013**

1200-1400

**Lunch**

*Heads of Delegation Lunch Meeting, Venue: \_\_\_\_\_*

HOD's will discuss:

- Key issues in the 3 Year Blueprint/Action Plan and Joint Statement
- Date of 4<sup>th</sup> Joint Committee Meeting in November 2013
- Possibility of setting up additional Subcommittee Meetings on Commerce and Guaranteeing Organizations
- Other Matters

*Other Delegates, Venue: \_\_\_\_\_*

**Session I: Subcommittee Meeting Back-to-Back Sessions**

1400-1530

**Transport and Customs Subcommittee Meeting**

Chairperson: Transport or Customs Official from Myanmar

Co-Chairperson: Yushu Feng  
Principal Economist (Regional Cooperation)  
Thailand Resident Mission, South-East Asia Department  
Asian Development Bank

*This session will discuss recent developments, implementation issues, and exchange key information on:*

- *Single Stop Inspection and Single Window Inspection Mechanisms*
- *Coordination of operating hours of border offices*
- *Coordination of opening of additional border crossing points, routes, and transport corridors.*
- *Condition and availability of border crossing facilities, infrastructure and personnel*
- *National transport-related laws, regulations, formalities, practices and procedures.*
- *Coordination, harmonization and simplification of customs inspection procedures and formalities.*

*The transport and customs subcommittee will endeavor to propose a work-program, and make recommendations to the JC on resolving key issues and bottlenecks.*



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1530-1630	<p><b>Immigration Subcommittee Meeting</b></p> <p>Chairperson: Immigration Official from Myanmar</p> <p>Co-Chairperson: Yushu Feng Principal Economist (Regional Cooperation) Thailand Resident Mission, South-East Asia Department Asian Development Bank</p> <p><i>This session will discuss recent developments, implementation issues, and exchange key information on:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Single-window inspection procedures</li> <li>- Coordination of the operating hours of the border crossing offices</li> <li>- Conditions for passport requirements and visa issuance</li> <li>- National immigration related laws and regulations, formalities, procedures, and practices</li> </ul> <p><i>The immigration subcommittee will endeavor to propose a work-program, and make recommendations to the JC on resolving key issues and bottlenecks.</i></p>
1630-1730	<p><b>Health Subcommittee Meeting</b></p> <p>Chairperson: Health Official from Myanmar</p> <p>Co-Chairperson: Yushu Feng Principal Economist (Regional Cooperation) Thailand Resident Mission, South-East Asia Department Asian Development Bank</p> <p><i>This session will discuss recent developments, implementation issues, and exchange key information on:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Single-window inspection procedures</li> <li>- Modalities of allowing cross-border movement of perishable goods</li> <li>- Health inspection of people crossing borders</li> <li>- Phytosanitary and veterinary inspection of goods and animals crossing borders.</li> <li>- National health related laws, regulations, formalities, practices and procedures.</li> </ul> <p><i>The health subcommittee will endeavor to propose a work-program, and make recommendations to the JC on resolving key issues and bottlenecks.</i></p>



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Thursday, 5 September 2013	
<b>Session III: National Transport Facilitation Committee Senior Officials Meeting (Plenary)</b>	
0800-0830	Registration
0830-0850	Opening Session and Introduction
	<p><b>Opening remarks</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Mr, Hideaki Iwasaki (TBC) Principal Infrastructure Specialist ADB Extended Mission in Myanmar</p> <p>Chairperson: U Sann Aung Director General Transport Planning Department</p> <p>Co-Chairperson: Yushu Feng Principal Economist (Regional Cooperation) Thailand Resident Mission, South-East Asia Department Asian Development Bank</p>
0850-1000	<p><b>Country statements</b></p> <p><i>Each country will be requested to make a brief 10 minute statement/report on the progress of their support to transport facilitation initiatives in the GMS (implementation of the CBTA and other bilateral transport agreements, and other initiatives) and provide updates on important milestones, and identify implementation bottlenecks.</i></p>
1000-1030	<p><b>Discussion on the Status of Transport Facilitation in the GMS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Video: Knocking Down Borders</li> <li>- Review of Status of Deliverables from the 3<sup>rd</sup> JCM in Vientiane (Stocktaking report matrix)</li> </ul> <p><i>This session will take stock of the status of deliverables from the previous JCM. The delegations will discuss what has been achieved and what remains to be done and provide a delivery timeline to ensure that the implementation of the transport facilitation action plan from the 3<sup>rd</sup> JCM is on track.</i></p>
1030-1100	Group Photo and Coffee Break



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1100-1230	<p><b>Discussion on the 3-Year Strategic Blueprint (2013-2015) on Transport Facilitation the GMS/Transport Facilitation Action Plan/Work Program and Draft 4<sup>th</sup> Joint Statement of the GMS CBTA</b></p> <p><i>The delegations are requested to provide their inputs for the draft 3-Year Strategic Blueprint on Transport Facilitation and Draft Joint Statement in light of national and regional priorities and needs and the recent developments in transport facilitation.</i></p>
1230-1400	Lunch
1400-1500	<p><b>Reporting of:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Subcommittee Meeting of Transport, Customs, Immigration and Quarantine By Subcommittee Chairperson</li> <li>- Second Working Group Meeting of Transport Associations on Transport Facilitation in the GMS on 14-15 August 2013, PRC, by Mr. Aung Khin Myint</li> <li>- Proposed GMS Transport Facilitation Knowledge Portal By Mr. Anthony Green</li> </ul>
1500-1530	<p><b>Finalization of the 3-Year Strategic Blueprint (2013-2015) on Transport Facilitation the GMS/Transport Facilitation Action Plan and Draft 4<sup>th</sup> Joint Statement of the GMS CBTA</b></p> <p><i>The delegations will finalize the 3- Year Strategic Blueprint and 4<sup>th</sup> JCM Draft Statement and make the necessary revisions to the draft in light of key issues and regional priorities to developing GMS Economic Corridors</i></p> <p><b>Finalization of the Program, Date and Venue of the 4th Meeting of the Joint Committee</b></p> <p><i>The delegations will finalize the program, date, and venue of the 4<sup>th</sup> JCM. It is proposed to be held in Nay Pyi Taw on November __, 2013</i></p>
1530-1700	<p><b>Coffee Break</b></p> <p>The ADB Team will prepare the Summary of Proceedings</p>
1700-1730	<b>Adoption of the Summary of Proceedings</b>
1900	Dinner Hosted by ADB



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**Meeting documents:**

1. Status of CBTA Implementation: Achievements and Challenges (Stocktaking Matrix)
2. 3-Year Strategic Blueprint on Transport Facilitation in the GMS/Transport Facilitation Action Plan
3. Draft program of the 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Joint Committee for the Cross-Border Transport Agreement
4. Draft Statement of the 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Joint Committee for the Cross-Border Transport Agreement

**ADB Financed Participants from the 6 GMS Countries:**

1. NTFC Focal point
2. Transport
3. Customs
4. Immigration
5. Quarantine
6. Commerce
7. Guaranteeing Organization
8. GMS National Coordination Office