



Mission Report

The Sixth Greater Mekong Sub-region Summit (6th GMS Summit)

Date: 29-31 March 2018

Venue: National Convention Centre, Ha Noi, Vietnam

Prepared by

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A. Background, Description and Objectives of the Activity

The GMS Business Summit served as an opportunity for GMS leaders, heads of international organisations, representatives of development partners, business sector and academia to share their views on key development issues of the GMS region and discuss ways to strengthen co-operation among different stakeholders.

The GSM is a natural economic area bound together by the Mekong River. The GMS countries are Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam, and China (Yunnan Province and Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region). In 1992, with assistance from the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the six countries entered into a programme of sub-region economic co-operation, designed to enhance economic relations among the countries.

Objectives:

1. To do a final review of the propose Joint Summit Declaration.
2. To do a final review of the issues for the Leaders' discussion in their Retreat.
3. To conduct a final review of the status of the 6th Summit Deliverables.
4. To review the proposed order/flow of proceedings of the Sessions/Events on Days 2-3 of the Summit.
5. To review the final administrative and logistical arrangements for Days 2-3 of the 6th GM Summit.

B. Organizer/s

Asian Development Bank (ADB)

C. Highlight of the Activity/Summary Points

1. H.E. Mr. Don Pramudwinai, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand, joined the delegation led by H.E. General Prayut Chan0o-cha, Prime Minister of Thailand, to attend the 6th Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS) Summit during 30-31 March 2018 in Ha Noi, Vietnam. The meeting was hosted by H.E. Mr. Nguyen Xuan Phuc, Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. H.E. Mr. Thongloun Sislith, Prime Minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR), Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padel Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, H.E.

Mr. Wang Yi, State Councilor and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of China, and H.E. U Henry Van Thio, Vice President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, also led their delegations to the Summit.

2. The Summit carried the theme “Leveraging on 25 Years of Co-operation, and Building a Sustainable, Integrated, and Prosperous GMS,” highlighting the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the Greater Mekong Subregion Economic Co-operation Programme, where the leaders from the six GMS countries reviewed and assessed the progress made under the Programme; renewed their commitment to subregional co-operation and its goals, and provided broad directions for key initiatives under the GMS Programme.
3. The GMS leaders adopted a joint declaration for the summit at the plenary session. They also formally adopted the Ha Noi Action Plan 2018-2022 to ensure effectiveness in the implementation of the GMS Economic Co-operation Programme, as well as the Regional Investment Framework 2022 which supports the 5-year action plan through a rolling pipeline of more than 200 investment and technical assistance projects.
4. The PM of Thailand delivered a statement reiterating the importance of GMS’s 3C strategies: Connectivity, Competitiveness, and Community for future success of GMS co-operation. He also attended the GMS Business Summit held on 30th March 2018 to discuss ways to strengthen co-operation among stakeholders and the private sector. At the Business Summit, the Prime Minister delivered a statement highlighting the government’s concept of Thailand 4.0, the development of the Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC), and the efforts to apply modern technology and innovations in various sectors to boost the country’s economy and its competitiveness.
5. Furthermore, the Prime Minister had bilateral meetings with the Prime Minister of Lao PDR, the Prime Minister of Vietnam, and the State Councilor and Minister of Foreign Affairs of China. The leaders expressed their determination to strengthen co-operation on the enhancement of seamless connectivity as well as harmonisation of rules and regulations to facilitate trade, investment and tourism. The meetings reflected the friendship and strong bonds between Thailand and the three countries.

D. Role/Participation of SEAMEO

1. SEAMEO Secretariat’s DDAC asked questions regarding how the co-operation between GMS could improve the educational situation in the region.

E. Side Meeting/s

N.A.

F. Follow-up Actions Needed

N.A.

G. Appendices/Related Conference Materials and Outputs

H. Photos, agenda of the summit, etc.



All heads of states from GMS

