



# The Greater Mekong Subregion Cooperation Programme

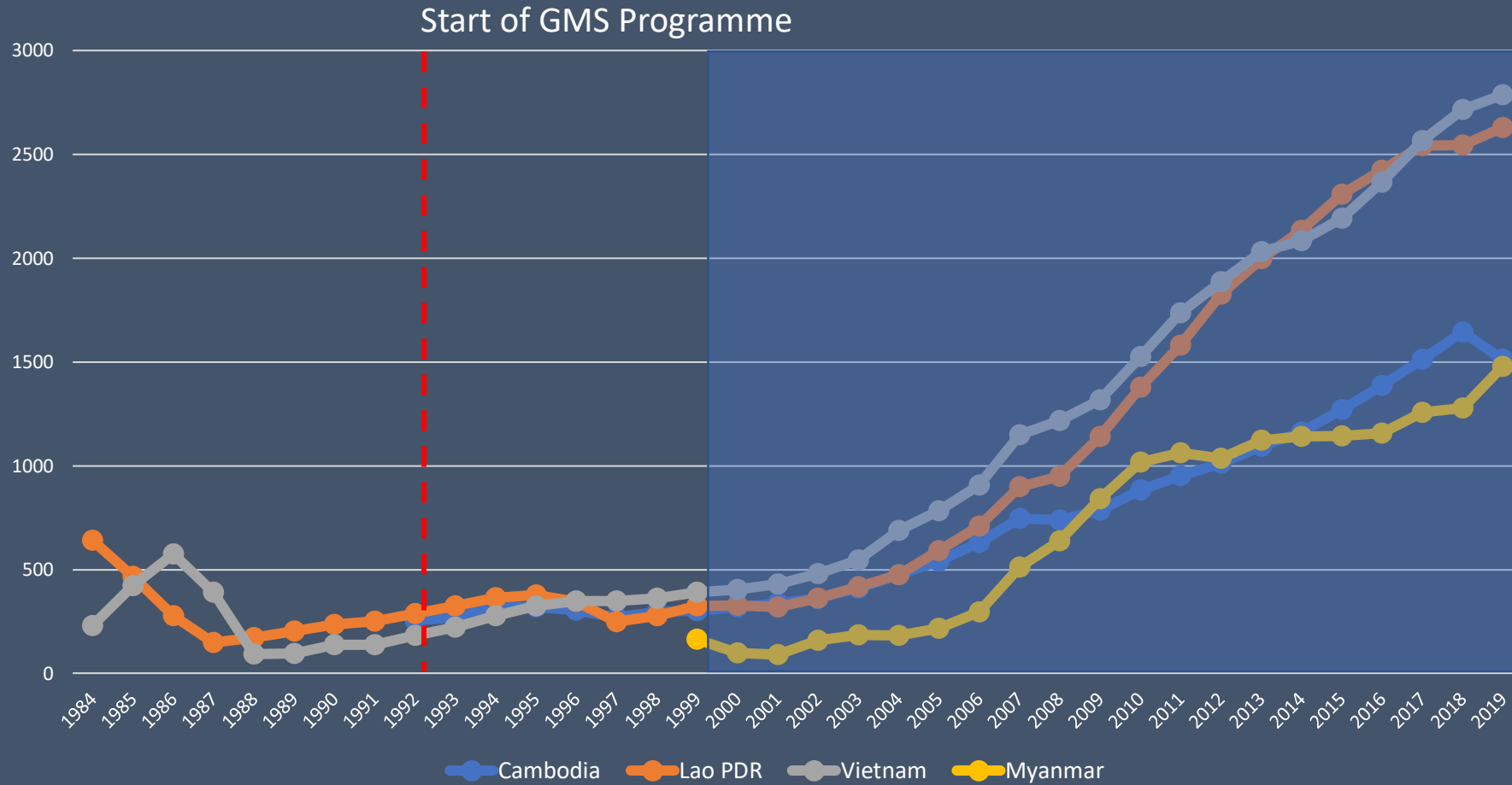
Building Connectivity, Competitiveness and Community

# The GMS Programme

- Established in 1992 by six countries in the GMS with to enhance economic relations within the region
- Comprises Cambodia, PR China (Yunnan Province and Guangxi), Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, and Viet Nam, with an area of 2.6 million km<sup>2</sup> and 334 million people
- The GMS Programme identifies and implements high-priority subregional projects in a wide range of sectors



# GDP per Capita, 1984-2019



# Key Challenges

- Economic differences that exist between the countries of the GMS
- Relationships between CLMV with the larger economies of PR China, Thailand and ASEAN had just started
- Inability to cope with emerging political, technological, climatic and health challenges
- Global trends: energy, financial, food, pandemic and other crises
- Poor physical and social infrastructure



# Vision and Purpose

**Vision:** Mekong subregion that is more prosperous, integrated, and harmonious

**Purpose:** Create an enabling policy environment develop infrastructure to:

- facilitate cross-border trade, investment, tourism, and economic cooperation
- develop human resources and skills competencies
- ensure sustainable, environment and social development



# Development Strategy

- Increase **connectivity**: develop sustainable infrastructure and transformation transport corridors into economic corridors
- Improve **competitiveness**: facilitate cross-border movement of people and goods and integrate markets
- Build a greater sense of **community** through projects and programs that address shared social and environmental concerns



# Translating Strategy into Actions

## Connectivity

- Multimodal transport (highways, toll roads, public transportation, MRTs)
- Information technology
- Policy and regulatory reforms

## Competitiveness

- Cross-border economic corridor development
- Regional value chains/SMEs
- Regional capital market development

## Community

- Regional health
- Climate change and disaster preparedness
- Cross-border energy trade
- Natural resource management

# Economic Corridor Development

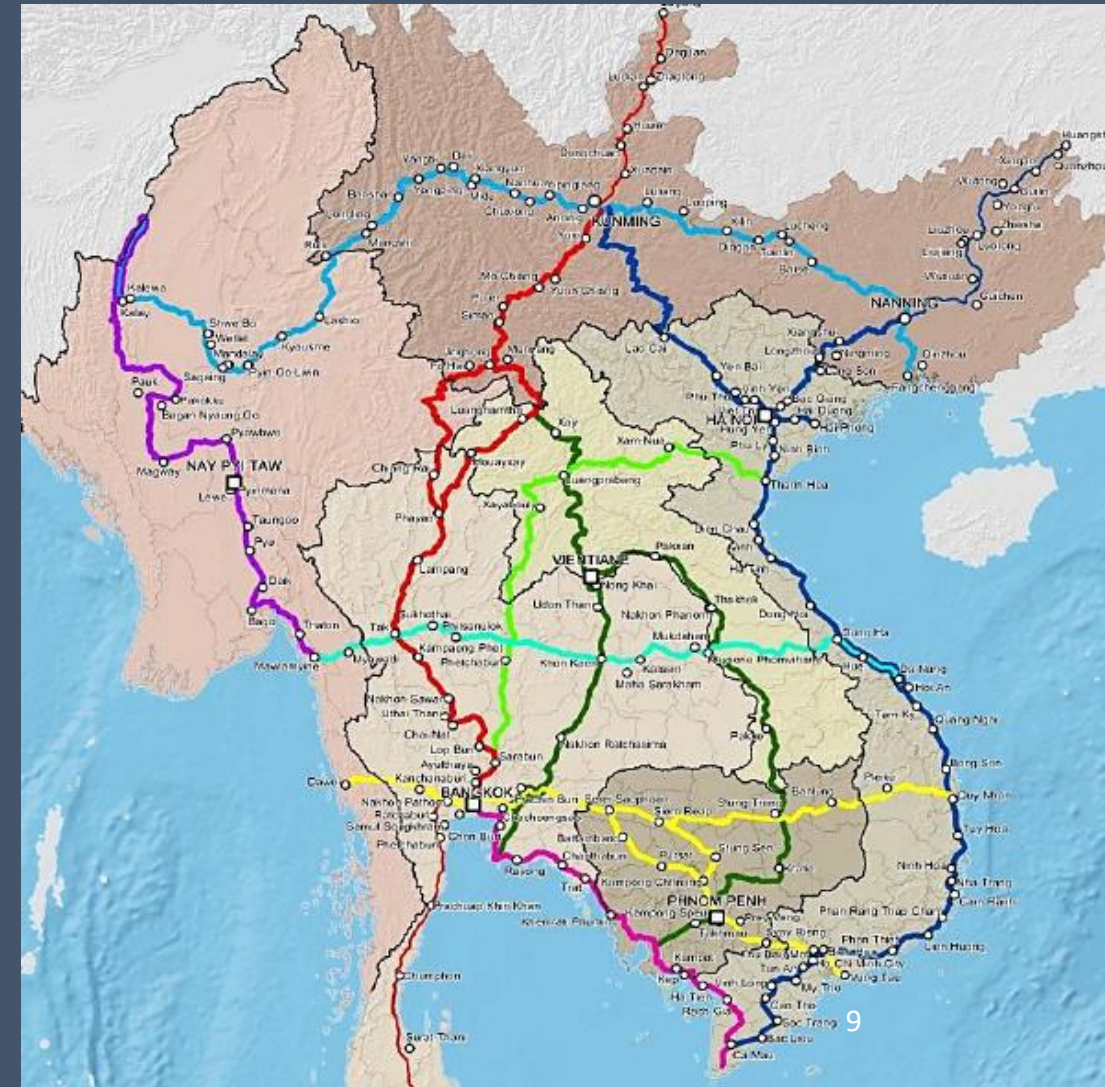
- Purpose: catalyze economic activities, develop special economic zones
- Coordinate across multiple sectors
- Maximize the benefits of economic corridors through multisector projects involving public and private sector investments

## What are economic corridors?

- Areas along transport routes **that host a variety of economic and social activities**
- These include, among others, factories, tourism, trade, environmental protection activities and other aspects of the economy and social development

# Economic Corridor Development

- Since 1992, \$20.4 billion invested, mostly in transport and energy infrastructure
- Expanded to 9 corridors from 3 main economic corridors
- GMS Regional Investment Framework: transport, agriculture, tourism, energy, urban development, and other multisector/border zone development account for over 98% of total cost of projects



# KEY AREAS OF COOPERATION



# Transport

- Develop transport corridors that link urban centers, agricultural production, markets, tourist destinations, and other areas of economic activity
- Promote trade, tourism, investment, and access to social and other services
- The main transport corridors the North–South, East–West, and Southern economic corridors



# Trade Facilitation

- Focuses on nonphysical or “software” measures to enhance connectivity and linkages among member countries
- Provide a framework for trade facilitation, efficient cross-border movement of goods, vehicles, and people; and investment
- GMS Cross-Border Transport Facilitation Agreement signed by GMS countries in 1999 (Lao PDR, Thailand, Viet Nam), 2001 (Cambodia), PR China (2002) and Myanmar (2003)



# Energy

- Establish a competitive and integrated regional power market that will develop, in a sustainable manner, the rich energy resources of the GMS
- Improve the subregion's energy security and the people's access to modern and affordable energy supplies



# Agriculture

- Improve agricultural productivity in GMS countries
- Facilitate production of safe food using climate-friendly agricultural practices and integrated into global markets
- Implement the GMS Core Agriculture Support Program Phase II (2011–2020)



# Urban Development

- Invest in priority urban infrastructure and services in small and medium-sized cities
- Contribute to the transformation of transport corridors into economic corridors
- Assist in preparing strategies for sustainable, competitive and livable cities
- Provide rural areas with greater access to jobs and markets



# Tourism

- Develop and promotes the GMS as a single destination, offering a diversity of good quality and high-yielding subregional products that distribute the benefits of tourism
- Minimize adverse impacts of tourism
- Invest in infrastructure that supports tourism, combined with capacity building and training and community-based tourism development to reduce poverty, generate employment generation, and ensure sustainable development



# Information Technology

- Improve telecommunications linkages, promote information and communications technology applications
- Facilitate increased access to information and communications to lower transaction costs and enhance the competitiveness of the GMS



# Human Development

- Promote cooperation in health, education, labor and migration, and social development
- Support communicable diseases control and HIV/AIDS prevention,
- Provide training on technical and vocational training, and higher education and research



# Achievements so far

<p><b>5.4%</b> GDP Growth (2019)</p>	<p><b>3</b> Economic Corridors Learn how these have become a catalyst for growth for the subregion</p>	<p><b>200+</b> <small>Follow</small>    Projects in the Pipeline Get information on proposed and approved projects</p>
<p>Close to <b>12,000 km</b> Roads Constructed, Upgraded, or Improved</p>	<p><b>2,600 km</b> Power Transmission and Distribution Lines Built/Added</p>	<p><b>\$639 billion</b> Annual Trade in 2020 between GMS countries From \$5 billion in 1992</p>

# Conclusion

- GMS Program has achieved success in fostering regional cooperation. At the inception of the program, the region was just emerging from a period of prolonged regional conflict.
- The GMS Program is flexible yet results-oriented, delivering projects to promote regional cooperation and thereby contributing to growth and poverty reduction as well as addressing regional public goods



# Conclusion

- As of December 2018, the GMS Program had implemented 95 investment programs and projects totaling \$22 billion
- Projects include subregional roads, airport and railway improvements, agricultural production, electricity generation and transmission, cross-border trade facilitation, tourism infrastructure development, vocational and educational training and communicable disease control.



**T**HANK **Y**OU!

Merry Christmas!

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