

**Greater Mekong Subregion  
23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting of the Working Group on Environment  
Siem Reap, Cambodia, 11–12 July 2017**

**RECORD OF DISCUSSION**

1. The members of the Working Group on Environment (WGE) from the six countries of the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS), namely, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the People's Republic of China, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Kingdom of Thailand, and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, met in Siem Reap, Cambodia on 11–12 July 2017 for the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting of the WGE (WGE AM-23).
2. The meeting commends the considerable progress made by the Core Environment Program (CEP) in 2016 to support the development of national environmental policies and strategies; the implementation of transboundary biodiversity collaboration, strengthening of national environmental regulations, strategies and plans, and green freight measures; and the development of the GMS CEP Strategic Framework and Action Plan 2018–2022 (CEP Strategic Framework).
3. The outcomes of the “Workshop on Green Growth in the GMS: Best Practices” organized on 11 July 2017 are useful in the ongoing formulation of the CEP Strategic Framework. This will guide the next phase of the program in addressing current and emerging environmental challenges that impact the subregion.
4. The CEP Strategic Framework is the main deliverable of the 5<sup>th</sup> GMS Environment Ministers' Meeting (EMM-5). The meeting recognizes the progress and the process being undertaken in its development. The meeting acknowledges the timeline for the EMM-5 deliverables and fully supports Thailand in the preparatory work for EMM-5 to be held in February 2018 in Chiang Mai.
5. The meeting recommends that the consolidated environment project pipeline should be further developed, refined, and submitted for inclusion in the Ha Noi Action Plan of the 6<sup>th</sup> GMS Leaders' Summit in March 2018. These projects were identified and prioritized through a consultative process based on the CEP thematic areas and national priorities. The meeting hereby directs the Environment Operations Center (EOC), Secretariat to the WGE, to work

closely with the countries to assist in the mobilization of the required resources and further detailing of these potential investments. The meeting also welcomes opportunities to pursue synergies and collaboration between CEP and the Core Agriculture Support Program.

6. The members of the WGE acknowledge the participation of development partners and extend sincere appreciation to the CEP co-financing partners: the Government of Sweden, the Nordic Development Fund, the Global Environment Facility, and the Asian Development Bank. The members of the WGE encourage co-financing and development partners to continue to coordinate and support the next phase of the program and strengthen shared commitment and partnerships for a green, inclusive and sustainable GMS.

7. The members of the WGE appreciate the acceptance of the People's Republic of China to host the 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the WGE in 2018.

8. Finally, the members of the WGE appreciate the Government of Cambodia, in particular, the Ministry of Environment, for hosting WGE AM-23 and EOC for its support organizing the event.

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