

Uplifting Borders

Taking the GMS to the Last Mile

*A policy dialogue conference
organised by the
Office of The National Economic and
Social Development Board,
Royal Government of Thailand
in partnership with the
European Union and UNCDF*

31 MAY 2016
Bangkok,
Thailand



WELCOME FROM NESDB

A central planning agency responsible for strategy formulation towards balanced and sustainable development while upholding national interests and keeping up with unexpected changes with high efficiency

Dr. Pormatee Vimolsiri

The National Economic and Social Development Board (NESDB) works under the office of the Prime Minister of the Royal Government of Thailand being responsible for the formulation of the government's national plan and the provision of advisory services for the Cabinet. NESDB comprises of 15 distinguished professionals, namely a chairman and 9 highly qualified economic and social development experts.

One of the key duties of the NESDB is to establish and maintain coordination mechanism between the NESDB, concerned agencies and state enterprises regarding the planning and implementation of development programs and projects that fit to the National Economic and Social Development Plan. This includes support to and analysis of the government's regional policy in the context neighboring countries and ASEAN.

It is within this sphere that, we have, in partnership with the European Union (EU) and UNCDF organized this conference event.

As the government agency with responsibilities for socio-economic development primary cross-border areas provide a great opportunity to foster deeper inter-regional cooperation and growth. In particular the Government of Thailand through the work of NESDB and the Neighboring Countries Economic Development Agency (NEDA) is invested in the development of the border areas, supporting neighboring countries to realize greater integration and mutual benefits.



WELCOME FROM EUROPEAN UNION

The Delegation of the European Union (EU) to Thailand is one of over 140 EU Delegations around the world. We play a key role in presenting, explaining, and implementing EU's foreign policies and maintaining political dialogue, overseeing EU trade policy, administering development cooperation, and building cultural contacts.

Ambassador Jesús Miguel Sanz

I would like to express a warm welcome to the delegates joining us at this Conference co-organised in partnership with the Office of National Economic and Social Board (NESDB) of Thailand and the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) and the European Union Delegation.

The EU is among the most open economies in the world and remains committed to rules based free trade. We are the world's largest trading block; and rank first in both inbound and outbound international investments.

The EU has engaged actively with the ASEAN region and increasingly with its individual member states. Beyond negotiation of trade agreements and financial assistance, the EU also collaborates with ASEAN to promote smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. This focuses on cooperation and exchange of information in areas such as elimination of non-tariff barriers, harmonizing standards, strengthening the rule of law, the implementation of international labour standards, and last but not least encouraging a business-friendly trade and investment environment,

The ASEAN trade and investment liberalization process coupled with rapid economic growth in the Greater Mekong Region has intensified needs for cross-border development between Thailand, Cambodia, Myanmar and Laos. Hence, investment in productive infrastructure and adequate investment policy mix are prerequisites for socio-economic development of border area municipalities.



In view of existing developmental challenges it is important to make the most effective use of available resources. The Conference, being supported under the Policy Dialogue Support Facility (PDSF), will therefore serve as a forum for exchange of information, knowledge and experiences in the area of investment policies and financing. It will also offer opportunities to build further networks and stimulate regional cooperation, through the combination of knowledge sharing and investment stimulant instruments such as the blending mechanisms.

The EU Blending Facilities, such as the Asia Investment Facility, have demonstrated the capacity to leverage substantial amounts of additional public non-grant financing for important public investments in our partner countries. We have been using this innovative financial tool to create the right financing-mix for development projects. The strategic use of a grant element can make investments with a high economic and social return financially viable and hence achieving a leveraged development impact.

I look forward to the fruitful outcomes of the discussions.

WELCOME FROM UNCDF

UNCDF's mandate from the UN General Assembly (1966) is to "assist developing countries in the development of their economies by supplementing existing sources of capital assistance by means of grants and loans". This was further amended in 1973 to support "first and foremost the least developed among the developing countries".

Mr David Hugh Jackson

UNCDF have, for decades, been supporting the ASEAN region through development partnerships with the governments of Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Viet Nam. In a changing world, which sees the emergence of Asia as a leader in the global economy and many countries attaining middle income status the emphasis of regional and local development has shifted towards structural transformation of the economy.

In this new global landscape, the world has embarked on an ambitious and inclusive development agenda under-written by the 17 strategic development goals (SDG's). Agenda 2030 provides an unprecedented opportunity for sovereign, public and private partners to recommit to the lagging economies of ASEAN in their pursuit of graduation through balanced, equitable and sustainable growth patterns. As an international support measure for the graduation of the ASEAN LDCs, UNCDF has a critical role to play in demonstrating how blended finance models can attract productive investment for transformative change in the local economic space.

UNCDF warmly welcomes all participants to this event and looks forward to promoting a tripartite community of innovation, learning, financing and leverage amongst all stakeholders represented here today to further deepen ASEAN integration and growth especially within the lagging economies.



It is within this frame that UNCDF is developing the regional cross border development programme Local Transformative and Uplifting Solutions (LoTUS) that specifically targets the countries represented at this conference. UNCDF has, over the last six months, been working in partnership with the CLM countries to examine the development potentials and opportunities held within the border areas between Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Thailand that straddle the main GMS economic corridors.

We are pleased to be able to share the findings of a scoping study conducted by our Asia team of experts to enable deeper policy dialogue leading to the re-ignition of the development of the GMS border areas that promote balanced and inclusive growth. Through this conference UNCDF will introduce new insights into the opportunities offered by developing the border areas. Through the forging of new partnerships to facilitate innovative blended financing tools for infrastructure and services investments can the potentials of the border areas be truly realized.

GENERAL INFORMATION

The ASEAN region remains one of the fastest growing economies globally with a projected GDP growth across the region of 4.7 percent (2016). The region that consists of 10 member states boasts a combined population of over 622 million people.

The ASEAN combined domestic product is US\$2.6 trillion (2016) collectively forming the third largest economy in Asia and the seventh largest in the world.

Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) into the ASEAN region in 2014 reached US\$136.2 billion against a backdrop of a 16 percent decline in global flows during the same period. However, recent figures (2015) indicate a 7 percent drop in FDI inflows.

During 2014 nearly two-thirds of ASEAN FDI flowed from the EU, intra-ASEAN and Japan, the United States and Hong Kong.

The increase of intra-ASEAN FDI indicates a growing interest of ASEAN companies in a stronger regional presence in the light of emerging new market opportunities, the change of national export strategies and the influence of the fruition of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC).

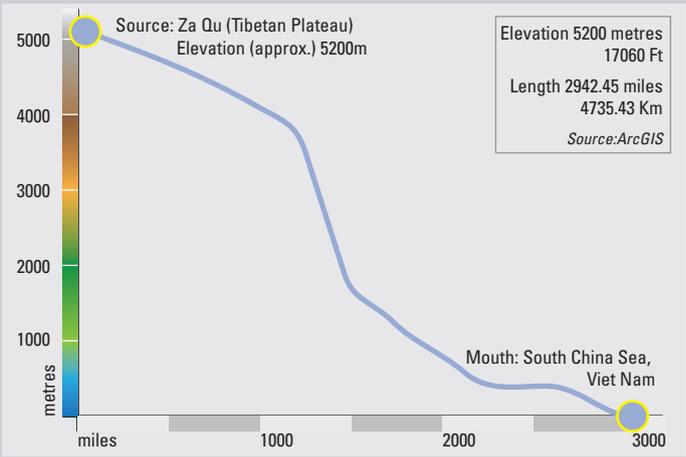
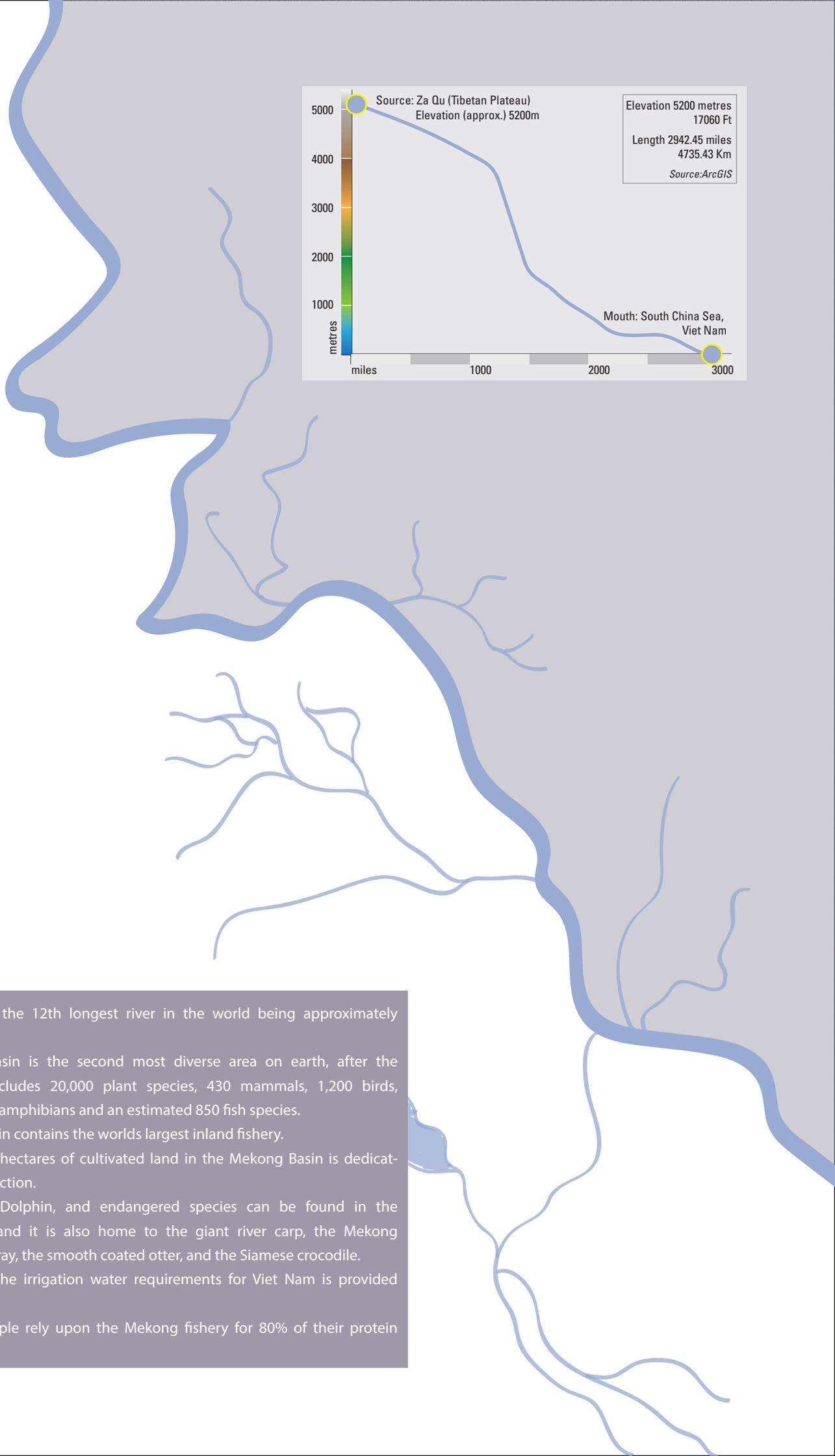
ASEAN countries are well-positioned to take advantage of the emergence of new consumer markets in the region catering to a wide variety of peoples as demand from the traditional export destinations reduces.

ASEAN is in the process of creating a single market and production base, called the ASEAN Economic Community, which will allow the free flow of goods, services, investments and skilled labor, and the freer movement of capital across the region.

Source: 24th ASEAN Summit. 2014. Myanmar, Nay Pyi Taw Declaration

With over 600 million people, ASEAN's potential market is larger than the EU or North America. Next to the People's Republic of China and India, ASEAN has the world's third largest workforce.

Source: Speech by ADB Vice-President Stephen Groff. 2014. Berlin, Federal Republic of Germany. ASEAN Integration and the Private Sector



- * The Mekong is the 12th longest river in the world being approximately 2,700 miles long.
- * The Mekong Basin is the second most diverse area on earth, after the Amazon. It includes 20,000 plant species, 430 mammals, 1,200 birds, 800 reptiles and amphibians and an estimated 850 fish species.
- * The Mekong Basin contains the worlds largest inland fishery.
- * Over 10 million hectares of cultivated land in the Mekong Basin is dedicated for rice production.
- * The Irrawaddy Dolphin, and endangered species can be found in the Mekong River, and it is also home to the giant river carp, the Mekong freshwater stingray, the smooth coated otter, and the Siamese crocodile.
- * Almost half of the irrigation water requirements for Viet Nam is provided by the Mekong.
- * Cambodian people rely upon the Mekong fishery for 80% of their protein intake.

UPLIFTING BORDERS

Taking the GMS to the “Last Mile”

Strong public and private sector interest in cross-border economic linkages between Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar with Thailand (CLM-T) may be used to provide key municipal infrastructure for GMS border area communities to support local, national and sub-regional development.

The Context

Developing border area municipalities can play an important role in local, national and sub-regional (GMS) development. Since such communities often involve lagging parts of economies, building effectively on their comparative advantages, including their location, can lead to more balanced and equitable national development. These municipalities can also serve as gateways for the wider domestic economy by facilitating linkages to regional and global value chains, particularly for less developed GMS economies such as Cambodia, Lao PDR and Myanmar (CLM). The effective development of border area municipalities provides opportunities for the transformative diversification and upgrading of participating economies.

The Challenge

Investments in local productive infrastructure is a critical requirement for the socio-economic development of border area municipalities. The CLM economies generally face challenging infrastructure investment needs, but lack the necessary domestic institutional capacity to meet them.

Given significant financing constraints, infrastructure investment has tended to be concentrated in large-scale national “mega projects” (e.g. transport, energy, telecommunications), and in major cities (growth poles) such as Yangon, Vientiane, and Sihanoukville (Cambodia’s only sea port). The opportunities offered by border area communities, as well as the wider benefits such infrastructure investments can provide, have generally received far less attention.

The Response

General approach: CLM border area municipalities positioned within or in proximity to the GMS economic corridors can take advantage of their location leveraging interest in cross-border economic linkages for mobilizing investment in local infrastructure; as well as taking advantage of access to higher-level infrastructure (e.g. transport, power) in the neighboring economy of Thailand. Such an approach can build on the priority CLM-T governments place on the potential role of cross-border economic linkages in development; and on the strong interest of the private sector in cross-border trade, investment and production, including in Special Economic Zones (SEZ) close to border towns.

South-South and domestic investment in infrastructure such as transport, power, and waste management, can contribute both to local municipal development, and to the role of such municipalities in supporting government and business cross-border strategies. Given tight fiscal constraints on CLM governments, an important opportunity presented by the dynamic regional and global economies is to explore new options for attracting private investor participation in local development initiatives within these key trading areas.

Border Area Scoping Study: The UNCDF supported Scoping Study has 3 basic objectives: -

- * To explore and test the approach of leveraging CLM-T interest in cross-border economic linkages for border area municipal infrastructure investments;
- * Consider the implications for financing options for municipal infrastructure;
- * Identify preliminary project ideas for implementing the approach as the basis for more detailed follow up (i.e. preparation of potentially bankable projects, and mobilizing related investor interest).

The preliminary findings and strategies that are evolving from the study provide the basis for this conference.

Perspectives

This conference, being organized by NESDB with support from the EU Policy Dialogues Support Facility (PDSF), UNCDF and UNESCAP Trade and Investment Division brings different perspectives for developing key CLM-T border areas.

NESDB perspective

- * Development of CLM border area municipalities can support Thailand's economic upgrading to more capital, skill and knowledge intensive activities and industries by strengthening cross-border linkages for mutual benefit.

CLM Perspective

- * CLM countries wish to pursue a more balanced development, including in lagging border areas; and strengthen the role of border area municipalities in facilitating participation in regional and global value chains for international markets.

EU Perspective

- * The EU's Asian Investment Facility (AIF) can be a potentially important source of financing for much needed infrastructure in CLM border area municipalities, including supporting Thailand's role in expanding related cross-border linkages. The EU is also promoting harmonized trade policy frameworks to boost intra ASEAN and ASEAN EU trade. Through such policy frameworks the EU are addressing environmental concerns and human rights concerns.

UNCDF – LoTUS programme

- * The innovative LoTUS programme aims at leveraging CLM-T cross-border economic linkages to mobilize investment in border area municipal infrastructure through innovative blended financing mechanisms. Using unique and proven solutions UNCDF offer to de-risk investments using blended finance solutions that unlock domestic and regional financial resources - linking such resources to international credit guarantees

UNESCAP Trade and Investment Division

- * The UNESCAP Trade and Investment Division (UNESCAP-TID) have been consistently undertaking and updating regional research, providing policy guidance, and organizing regional events in pursuance of the ASEAN AEC. UNESCAP-TID objective is to promote trade, investment and transfer of technology for inclusive and sustainable development in the Asia-Pacific region. UNESCAP-TID are acting as a cooperating and advisory agency for the conference and the UNCDF LoTUS programme in Asia linking policy to a sound evidence base.

TAKING THE GMS TO THE LAST MILE SUPPORT PROJECTS

Taking the GMS to the Last Mile is a thematic concept to extend the reach of the existing corridors through the development of backward linkages to local economies located at the border areas between Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Thailand.



EU PDSF
Thailand-European
Policy Dialogues Support
Facility

The Thailand-European Union Policy Dialogues Support Facility (PDSF) is a programme funded by the European Union (EU) to further advance Thailand's cooperation with the EU towards the achievement of sustainable economic and social development goals and global integration.

The programme aims at providing targeted support for Thailand-EU policy dialogues in four areas of strategic importance and crucial to advancing Thailand's national development agenda: (1) trade and investment; (2) higher education and science and technology; (3) environment, climate change, and energy; and (4) good governance and human rights.

The target groups are policy and decision-makers, implementing governmental agencies, experts involved in the development and implementation of policies in the various sectors covered.



LoTUS
Local Transformative
and Uplifting Solutions

The UN Capital Development Fund is initiating a regional programme that aligns to with the ASEAN AEC policies that foster regional integration, and the economic development policies of the CLM-T countries. LoTUS provides dedicated support to the least developed countries to enable and facilitate South-South investments and unlocking domestic finance. A multi-faceted development approach that combines policy and technical consultancy with financial assistance delivered through seed capital and credit guarantees is purposefully designed to forge new inter-regional partnerships for development in cross-border locations.

UNCDF works with national and local government, the private sector and financial institutions to realize the implementation of productive local development projects that build backwards linkages onto the GMS corridors for the benefit of local communities.



GMS Programme
Greater Mekong
Subregion programme

The Greater Mekong Subregion is a natural economic area bound together by the Mekong River, covering 2.6 million square kilometers and a combined population of around 326 million. The GMS countries are Cambodia, the People's Republic of China (PRC, specifically Yunnan Province and Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region), Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Thailand, and Viet Nam. In 1992, with assistance from ADB, the six countries entered into a programme of subregional economic cooperation, designed to enhance economic relations among the countries.

The GMS Program helps the implementation of high priority subregional projects in transport, energy, telecommunications, environment, human resource development, tourism, trade, private sector investment and agriculture.

Substantial progress has been achieved in terms of implementing GMS projects since 1992. Priority infrastructure projects worth around \$11 billion have either been completed or are being implemented. Among these are the upgrading of the Phnom Penh - Ho Chi Minh City highway and the East-West Economic Corridor that will eventually extend from the Andaman Sea to Da Nang.



NEDA
Neighboring
Countries Economic
Development
Cooperation Agency

Under the aim of the Thai government to ensure sustainable development of the sub-region, the Neighboring Countries Economic Development Fund was established in 1996 as an agency under the Fiscal Policy Office, Ministry of Finance. Its primary task is to provide financial support to strengthen the neighboring economies.

In 2005, the Thai government modernized and strengthened efficiency of NEDF through organizational restructuring, which would lead to greater flexibility in its operations. This eventually led to the establishment of Neighboring Countries Economic Development Cooperation Agency (NEDA).

NEDA is Thailand's international development aid agency, established officially on May 27, 2005, as a public organization, under supervision by the Minister of Finance.

TAKING THE GMS TO THE LAST MILE CONFERENCE AIMS

The strategic aim of the conference "Taking the GMS to the Last Mile" is to provide a policy dialogue platform that will identify new pathways to re-invigorate the development of the CLM-T border areas using innovative blended financing tools for infrastructure and services investments

Conference Objective



To facilitate policy dialogue for transformative solutions to develop CLM-T border municipalities.

Conference Outcomes



To reach consensus on forward pathways to support border municipal investments and development.



To facilitate dialogue for harmonized trade frameworks that can expedite investments and intra regional trade that align to the EU and global practices



To identify pilot initiatives from the presentations to pilot development finance, strategies and forge new partnerships to deepen the GMS.



To formulate a CLM-T border-development statement for the uplifting of border communities - taking the GMS to the last mile.



To initiate a conversation about "Last Mile" financing in the lagging economies of the region

TAKING THE GMS TO THE LAST MILE

CONFERENCE AGENDA

Time	Session Description	Presenter
07:00 to 08:20	Registration	
08:20 to 09:00	Conference Opening Remarks	
	Secretary-General, NESDB, Thailand	Dr. Pormatee Vimolsiri
	Ambassador - Head of EU Delegation to Thailand	H.E. Jesús Miguel SANZ
	UNCDF Director, Local Development Finance Practice	Mr David Hugh Jackson
	Vice Chairman, Thailand Chambers of Commerce	Mr. Kalin Sarasin
09:00 to 09:15	Media break and morning refreshments	
Session 2	Investment Policies ASEAN / EU	
09:15 to 09:25	Presenting an investment policy and framework for Myanmar	Mr.ThangAungKyaw(DICA)
09:25 to 09:35	Presenting an investment policy and framework for Cambodia	H.E. Nut Unvoanra (CDC)
09:35 to 09:45	Presenting an investment policy and framework - European Union	Mr. Philipp Dupuis,
09:45 to 10:15	Policy discussion panel session (questions and answers)	Panel Led Discussion
Session 3	Mobilizing Finance for Local Development and Productive Infrastructure	
10:20 to 10:35	UNCDF financing for local productive infrastructures - unique blending solutions	Mr. David Hugh Jackson
10:35 to 10:45	EU blending instrument - Asia Investment Facility (AIF)	Mrs Sutthiya Chantawaragul
10:45 to 11:15	Policy discussion - blending finance for development - panel led	Panel Led Discussion
Session 4	Leveraging Cross Border Linkages for Local Development	
11:20 to 11:40	GMS cross-border value chains and their implications	Dr. Masato Abe (UNESCAP)
11:40 to 12:00	GMS programme and developing the economic corridors - Urban Development Initiative	Ms. Pinsuda Alexander (ADB)
12:00 - 12:30	UNCDF LoTUS - scoping study preliminary results	Dr. George Abonyi (UNCDF)
Lunch		
Session 5	Approaching and Prioritizing Border Area Development	
13:30 to 13:45	Private sector strategic approach, potential roles and bottlenecks,	Dr. Jingjai Hanchanlash
13:45 to 14:00	Neighboring countries economic development projects	Mr. Newin Sinsiri
14:00 to 14:15	Priorities in cross-border linkages / sub regional cooperation - Cambodia	H.E Cheam Pe A
14:15 to 14:30	Priorities in cross-border linkages / sub regional cooperation - Lao PDR	H.E Bounthavy Souphantong
14:30 to 14:45	Priorities in cross-border linkages / sub regional cooperation - Myanmar	Dr. Moh Moh Naing
14:45 to 15:30	Policy discussion - priority cross-border developments - panel led	Panel Led Discussion
Session 6	From Concept to Project Investments	
15:45 to 16:15	UNCDF LoTUS framework and indicative CLM-T project ideas	Dr. George Abonyi
16:15 to 17:15	Border project financing round table forum	Panel Led Discussion
Working Refreshments (to be taken into the event area)		
17:30 to 18:00	“ASEAN LDCs Forward” - strategic pathways - conference statement	CLM-T Countries
18:00 to 18:30	Closing address - Minister of Transport (Royal Thai Government)	H.E. Arkhom Tempittayapaisith
Official Cocktails		
19:00 to 21:00	Cocktails and networking	NESDB EU UNCDF

SPEAKERS BIOGRAPHIES



David Jackson
Director, Local Development Finance
United Nations Capital Development Fund

David Jackson has over 30 years of experience in Local Development. In the 1980s he worked in London to promote employment, affordable housing and open space along the River Thames, including the park that became the site of the London Eye. He spent the 1990s in Mozambique, Africa. Working with the government and the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), he designed and piloted a national system of local government finance and capital investment. Returning to the UK in 2001, he ran a consulting company supporting local development in over 10 African and Asian countries through governments, the World Bank and other clients.

David rejoined the UN in 2006, serving as Decentralisation Advisor to the Government of Indonesia and UNDP where he was instrumental in developing UN support to the local government reforms in Aceh province following the Indian Ocean tsunami and the Peace Agreement.

In 2009, he became Head of UNCDF Asia and Pacific office where he designed the Local Climate Adaptive Living Facility (LoCAL), a global mechanism that enables local governments in LDCs to access climate finance for resilient investments.

Recently he has focused on the challenges of unlocking domestic capital markets for investments in local economic development, women's economic empowerment and food security. David believes that the municipal and local governments in developing countries are crucial for the local investment required to meet the SDG's and the Paris Climate Agreement. In 2013, David was appointed Director of Local Development Finance at UNCDF in New York. David taught at the London University School of Oriental and African Studies and is published in the field of local development.



Dr Masato Abe
Economic Affairs
United Nations ESCAP

Masato Abe is an Economic Affairs Officer in the Business and Development Section, Trade and Investment Division, UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN ESCAP) in Bangkok. He has extensive experience in enterprise development with a special emphasis on the SME sector, supply chain management and socially responsible business. Prior to joining the secretariat of the UN, he worked in the global automotive, electronics and high-technology industries. He has so far published over 100 books, book chapters, journal articles, policy papers and others for various outlets, such as ADB, ADBI, ESCAP, IRU, OECD, UNCTAD, UNIDO, UNISDR and WTO. He holds degrees in marketing, business administration and economics, and is a research fellow at Thammasat University, Bangkok.



Dr. George Abonyi
Senior Economic Consultant
United Nations Capital Development Fund

Dr. George Abonyi, is a Visiting Professor from the Department of Public Administration and Executive Education Program at Maxwell School in Syracuse University and Senior Advisor for UNCDF.

In a 30 year association with Asia (including 20 years based primarily in Thailand and Singapore Dr. Abonyi has held senior advisory positions with governments, international institutions and corporations, including being a long-term advisor in Thailand since 1983 (Senior Advisor, National Economic and Social Development Board, Office of the Prime Minister, 1983-2001), for which he was awarded a Royal Decoration by HRM the King of Thailand in 1992.

He was a Senior Advisor to the Myanmar’s Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development 2012–2013 (through Asian Development Bank’s Myanmar Program); Senior Advisor, Central Asia/China Regional Cooperation Programme; Strategy and Policy Dept.; Senior Advisor, Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) Programme 1992-2001; Economics and Research Department, Thailand and Vietnam country programs; UNDP (Team Leader on Silk Road Regional Cooperation involving China/Central Asia, 1997-98); continuing role as Senior Advisor with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP: private

sector development in the GMS);

Executive Director, Asia Strategy Forum (2000-2003); assessment of SMEs and ASEAN Economic Community 2015 (AEC 2015) for the ASEAN Economic Ministers SME Working Group (through ERIA);

Dr. Abonyi’s corporate advisory work in Asia has included issues related to corporate strategy; competitive and investment strategy; project finance and public-private partnership; and corporate restructuring.

Dr. Abonyi has held senior academic (full time and visiting) and research positions University of Ottawa; Anderson School of Management, University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA); National University of Singapore (NUS) and Harvard Institute for International Development (HIID); Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS), Singapore; and lectured/published/commented widely on Asian issues.

Dr. Abonyi received his Bachelor’s Degree (Hons.) in Economics from the University of Toronto; Masters Degree in Economics and Systems Planning from York University in Toronto, and his Ph.D. in Strategic Management and Management Science from the Graduate School of Management (now the Anderson School of Management), University of California at Los Angeles.



Pinsuda Alexander
Economic Affairs
Asian Development Bank

Ms. Alexander serves as an Economist in the Regional Cooperation and Operations Coordination Division of the Southeast Asia Department of the Asian Development Bank.

Prior to joining ADB, Ms. Alexander was with the U.S. Trade and Development Agency since 2009 as an International Trade Specialist/Country Manager for Southeast Asia. She managed the portfolio of foreign assistance grants and contracts for economic and infrastructure development in developing and middle income countries of Southeast Asia. She worked with public and private sector constituencies and collaborated with other US government agencies and multilateral and bilateral funding agencies for coordination of foreign policy and development objectives. In her role overseeing the Southeast Asia Portfolio, she led the US-ASEAN Connectivity Cooperation Initiative.

Ms. Alexander was born in Thailand and is a national of the US. She obtained her Master’s degree in International Relations/Economics and Southeast Asia Studies from The Johns Hopkins University, USA in 2009, and her Bachelor’s degree in Government from the U.S. Coast Guard Academy in 1999.



Dr. Jingjai Hanchanlash
 Director, Loxley Public Company
 Thailand Chamber of Commerce

Dr. Jingjai Hanchanlash serves as a Secretary General of the Development Cooperation Foundation. Dr. Jingjai served as an Executive Vice President and Member of the Executive Board at Loxley Public Co., Ltd. He served as the Chairman for Loxley Pacific Co., Ltd., a subsidiary of Loxley Public Co. Ltd. He has been Vice Chairman of Muang Thai Insurance Public Company Limited since January 1, 2016. He has been an Independent Director of Laguna Resorts & Hotels Public Company Limited since May 15, 2001.

Dr. Hanchanlash serves as an Independent Director of Thai Wah Food Products Public Company Limited. He has been a Director of Asian Phytoceuticals Public Company Limited since 2005, and Loxley Public Company Limited since May 15, 2014. He has been Director of Muang Thai Insurance Public Company Limited since July 30, 2014.

His other current positions are France-Thai Business Council of ANC Ltd, NEAT & T Ltd, IPEDEX (Thailand) Ltd. and the Vice Chairman of the Administrative Committee, Alliance Francaise, Thai Health Promotion Foundation Mekong, Region Law Centre, King Praathipok Institute, Thai Chamber of Commerce, ICC (International Chamber of Commerce), Asian Life Co., Ltd.

He serves as a member of Advisory Committee at Asia Plantation Capital Pte.

He completed Certificate in Mid-Career Management Training from the University of Western Ontario, Canada, A Certificate in Project Analysis from the University of Connecticut, A Diplome d' Etudes Politiques, Institut d'Etudes Politiques, Grenoble, France, A Diplome d'Etudes Superieures, Droit Public, l' Universite' de Caen, France and Doctorat d' Universite' de Caen, France.



Mr Paul Adrian Martin
 Senior Technical Advisor Asia
 UNCDF

Mr Paul A Martin is UNCDF's Senior Regional Technical Advisor responsible for local development finance in Asia and the Pacific. He holds an MBA - Zürich His portfolio of countries in ASEAN include Cambodia, Lao PDR and Myanmar. Working with government, the private sector, citizens and development partners he has developed and introduced innovate national and sub national development projects and worked on national planning mechanisms.

I am also responsible for UNCDF's LDFF principle ASEAN regional program LoTUS that aims to facilitate South-South investments into the CLM border areas with Thailand. I am also providing the technical and organizational lead to UNCDF global diagnostic - LoOKING, developing a comprehensive state of the art local government diagnostic that promotes sustainable transformative policymaking and investments.

Prior to joining UNCDF. Paul worked in the fields of governance and local development for over 20 years. in East Africa, Asia, Balkans, Eastern Europe (former Soviet Union), and the Middle East.



Philipp Dupuis
Minister Councilor for Trade and Economic Affairs
European Union Delegation, Thailand

Philipp Dupuis is since August 2015 Head of the Economic and Trade Section of the Delegation of the European Union in Thailand. He also covers Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar.

Between August 2009 and July 2015, Philipp Dupuis has been Deputy Head of the Unit in charge of the trade relations with North America in the Directorate General for Trade of the European Commission in Brussels. In parallel, he was EU deputy chief negotiator for the EU-Canada Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA).

He was previously Deputy Head of the Units responsible for the trade relations with the Americas, the Middle East and the management of the Generalised System of Preferences (GSP).

From 2001 to 2005 Philipp Dupuis was assigned to the Delegation of the European Commission in Mexico as Head of the Economic and Trade Section, covering, until 2003, also Cuba.

Before moving to Mexico, he worked in the anti-dumping department of the Directorate General for Trade of the European Commission, was coordinator for the bilateral trade relations with Iran and Iraq in the same DG and was head of section in the public procurement unit of the Commission Administration.

Before joining the European Commission in 1995, Philipp Dupuis was a consultant for Andersen Consulting in Frankfurt/Germany carrying out projects in the financial sector.

He studied Business Administration and, as subsidiary major, Political Sciences at the University of Mannheim in Germany and made a Banking Apprenticeship at the Deutsche Bank in Darmstadt/Germany.

Born 6 January 1965 in Darmstadt / Germany, of German nationality.

INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERS

BRIEFS

Main Organizer

Office of the National Economic and Social Development Board

NESDB

On February 15th, 1950, the administration of Prime Minister Field Marshal Plaek Pibulsongkram established the National Economic Council (NEC). Its primary mission was to provide the government with opinions and recommendations on national economic issues.

In 1959, Prime Minister Field Marshal Sarit Dhanarajata restructured the council, and gave it a new name: the Office of the National Economic Development Board (NEDB). In 1961, this office launched the nation's First Economic Development Plan, the first of its kind, to serve as a central framework for Thailand's national development.

In 1972, social development was officially recognized as an essential part of the national plan. The NEDB therefore became the National Economic and Social Development Board (NESDB), as it is known today, under the Office of the Prime Minister.

The NESDB comprises 15 distinguished professionals, namely a chairman and 9 members who are highly qualified experts in the area of economic and social development. There are 5 ex officio members, including the Secretary-General of the Civil Service Commission, the Director of the Bureau of the Budget, the Director General of the Fiscal Policy Office, the Governor of the Bank of Thailand and the Secretary-General of the NESDB, who also serves as a secretary.

Duties and Responsibilities

- * To provide opinions and recommendations on national economic and social development to the cabinet.
- * To scrutinize the National Economic and Social Development Plan and other proposals before submitting to the cabinet for consideration.
- * To provide opinions concerning the economic and social development issues to the Prime Minister as requested.
- * To set up the coordination mechanism between the NESDB, concerned agencies and state enterprises regarding the planning and implementation of development programs and projects.

NESDB is the main organizer of the "Taking the GMS to the Last Mile" conference promoting inter-regional cooperation and investment into the Thai border areas with Cambodia, Lao PDR and Myanmar.

INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERS BRIEFS

Conference Sponsor

The Delegation of the European Union
to the Kingdom of Thailand

The EU and Thailand

The relations between the EU and Thailand have developed significantly since the opening of the Delegation in 1979. Thailand has made a major leap into a middle-income developing country. Meanwhile the EU has become an ever closer union of 28 Member States and a key player in international affairs.

Whereas in the past the EU and Thailand had a traditional donor-recipient relationship it is now a strong partnership in the field of trade. The EU is the second biggest export market for Thai products and the fourth largest source of imports.

We regularly exchange views with our Thai partners on political issues particularly in the EU-ASEAN context. The EU offers Thailand technical assistance and capacity building particularly in the areas of economic relations, science and technology, higher education, environment and health.

Trade and Investment

Trade and investment flows between the EU and Thailand are important to the Thai economy. Many different policies and regulatory measures affect these flows.

The EU's experience in economic integration and regulation can provide Thailand with relevant guidance in policy and institutional development in response to regional integration with ASEAN and implementation of ASEAN-Plus Free Trade Agreements (FTA) with other nations.

The joint economic efforts between Thailand and the European Union are focused towards: -

Customs

The EU has considerable experience in implementing internationally-accepted customs standards as defined by the World Customs Organization (WCO). EU expertise is provided for government organizations and private companies to achieve a full understanding of and compliance with the WCO Framework of Standards to Secure and Facilitate Global Trade (SAFE).

Taxation

Tax structures are an important element in the development of many industries, especially for those that rely heavily on international connections – e.g. automobiles and alcoholic beverages. Collaboration between the EU and Thailand over parts of Thailand's current tax system assists to enhance competitiveness on the international level through changes that reduce or eliminate measures with negative or discriminatory effects.

Market Access

The EU has implemented a wide array of measures to ensure that products and services imported into EU countries are of good quality. Thai businesses wishing to gain access to EU markets are required to meet certain quality standards before export sales can commence.

INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERS BRIEFS

Conference Facilitator

United Nations Capital Development Fund

UNCDF at a Glance

UNCDF’s mandate from the UN General Assembly (1966) is to; “assist developing countries in the development of their economies by supplementing existing sources of capital assistance by means of grants and loans”. This was further amended in 1973 to support “first and foremost the least developed among the developing countries”. In ASEAN UNCDF operates in Cambodia, Lao PDR, and Myanmar.

UNCDF is the UN’s capital investment agency for the world’s 48 least developed countries. With its capital mandate and instruments, UNCDF offers “last mile” finance models that unlock public and private resources, especially at the domestic level, to reduce poverty and support local economic development. UNCDF’s financing models work through two channels: financial inclusion that expands the opportunities for individuals, households, and small businesses to participate in the local economy, providing them with the tools they need to climb out of poverty and manage their financial lives; and local development finance, that shows how localized investments — through fiscal decentralization, innovative municipal finance, and structured project finance — can drive public and private funding that underpins local economic expansion and sustainable development.

By strengthening how finance works for poor people at the household, small enterprise, and local infrastructure levels, UNCDF contributes to SDG 1 on eradicating poverty and SDG 17 on the means of implementation. By identifying those market segments where innovative financing models can have transformational impact in helping to reach the last mile and address exclusion and inequalities of access, UNCDF contributes to a number of different SDGs.

The LoTUS programme is part of UNCDF’s work in local development finance and builds on the strong 30-year-old partnerships with the government of Lao PDR and the Government of Cambodia in this area of technical expertise.

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT CROSS-BORDER APPROACH

Releasing regional and domestic Finance

The key cross border areas of the CLM-T, which reside in proximity to the GMS economic corridors, offer a unique opportunity to balance growth territorially through local transformative solutions.

Growth Challenge of ASEAN LDCs

Least developed countries include some of the world's fastest growing economies (ASEAN CLM) and also include countries whose growth in real terms is limited. Not all are growing at the rate required to keep pace with projected population increases. The structural balance of LDC economies and the growth within the broad sectors is unevenly spread across their territories and inequitably distributed through their societies, often producing relative disparities and disequilibria.

This is particularly the case in the CLM countries where there is fragmented productive capacity and high commodity export dependence. Linkage to global value chains has is often through production clusters located near larger urban areas – with markets outside the GMS region.

The key challenge ASEAN LDCs face over the next 5 years is not only aggregate growth, it is the quality of that growth and its ability to transform the economic and social structure across the whole territory of regionally and within each country.

Sustainable and equitable growth.

The Istanbul Plan of Action for the LDCs (2011) calculates that "...the economies of the worlds LDCs need to grow at a rate of 7% a year in order to keep up with the rate of population increase."

Historically, for developing countries this requires significant investment amounting to a gross capital formation rate of 25%.⁴ Only 17 LDCs achieved this in 2011. Even for those LDCs that did demonstrate high growth there is evidence that the trends of economic activity are insufficiently

aligned with the patterns required for deep and

sustainable transformation. Common features of LDC development currently include:

- * A growth rate that is less than the rate of employment increase and a rate of employment increase less than the number of entrants to the labor market. The fastest growing LDCs are led by commodity and real estate sectors and the rate of growth is not matched by new jobs.
- * High rural – urban migration and an inability of the rural economy to absorb additional workers for low wage subsistence activity due to increasing environmental degradation and increasing pressure on land. Yet the rate of agricultural modernization is also slow, which decreases the fixed capital formation that could trigger additional investments in new jobs and new areas.
- * Growing urbanization and associated development problems exacerbated by the lack of necessary public and private urban investments that can enable towns and cities to capitalize on their dynamic societies and economies.

These features produce growth patterns that do not always lead to economic integration. Localities in urban, rural, and border areas do not always benefit from the growing sectors of the economy. The GMS is reflective of this where rural and smaller urban communities have been by-passed by the development cycle.

For the last thirty years UNCDF has worked with the Cambodian government and other partners to address these challenges. This began with the design, piloting and roll-out of the Commune / Sangkat fund that now provides regular investment capital to the lowest level of local government. Building on this, UNCDF introduced the Local Climate Adaptive Living Facility (LoCAL), a climate resilient local investment platform, and is now supporting the Cambodian government in its application for direct access to the Green Climate Fund, which will take expand LoCAL to all local governments.

In Lao PDR UNCDF designed and piloted the District Development Fund (DDF), which began as a pilot in Saravane province twenty years ago. This built on the previous experience in rural infrastructure, but introduced the innovation of a discretionary capital grant for district governments. Since then the DDF has expanded to more provinces and has become a key feature of policies to accelerate local economic development and local institutional capacity.

Through the DDF Lao PDR is in the first phase of LoCAL. In addition to the roads, bridges and market places themselves, the DDF builds local private sector capacity to tender and contract for infrastructure investments.

Continued Innovation in Local Development
UNCDF innovative approach to local development finance recognizes the growing fiscal receipts and private capital available within LDCs and their changed development needs in the 2030 Agenda. The design of LoTUS is inspired by this new environment.

The challenge today is not only to provide new sources of capital but also to unlock existing sources of domestic and international capital that is available to the LDCs and to ensure that these

funds are available for local development through blended solutions.

To this end UNCDF applies its seed capital and technical assistance to "kick-start" this process. Just as in the previous examples from Cambodia and Lao PDR, we aim to mobilize resource flows, allocate them to the local level for investment in economic and social infrastructure through mechanisms accountable to local stakeholders. This has often involved working with local governments in addition to central authorities. It requires strengthening the capacity of existing public and private institutions and the procedures they use as well as providing the seed capital and itself. The objective is to create sustainable financial models or mechanisms that are taken to scale by government and / or by the market.

The term "capital" is applied in its wider sense, encompassing its multiple definitions as: a factor of production; an accounting term in public finance (i.e. not a recurrent cost); a large scale fiscal or financial flow; an income generating resource; and finally a valuable and / or expendable resource. UNCDF has a strong track record of investing in locations and on issues where others do not – and this is tradition is continued in the LoTUS programme.

Modeling Local Development through LoTUS

LoTUS will provide technical assistance, blended (public and private) financing and credit guarantees. The model shows that the purpose is to promote balanced national growth through sustainable and equitable local development. Studies and diagnostic tools will define the sectors and investments with maximum leverage and impact on the local economic space, on both sides of the border. Value chains that retain value locally, build productive capacity and increase the quality (employment, skills, purchasing power) of the local economy will be promoted.

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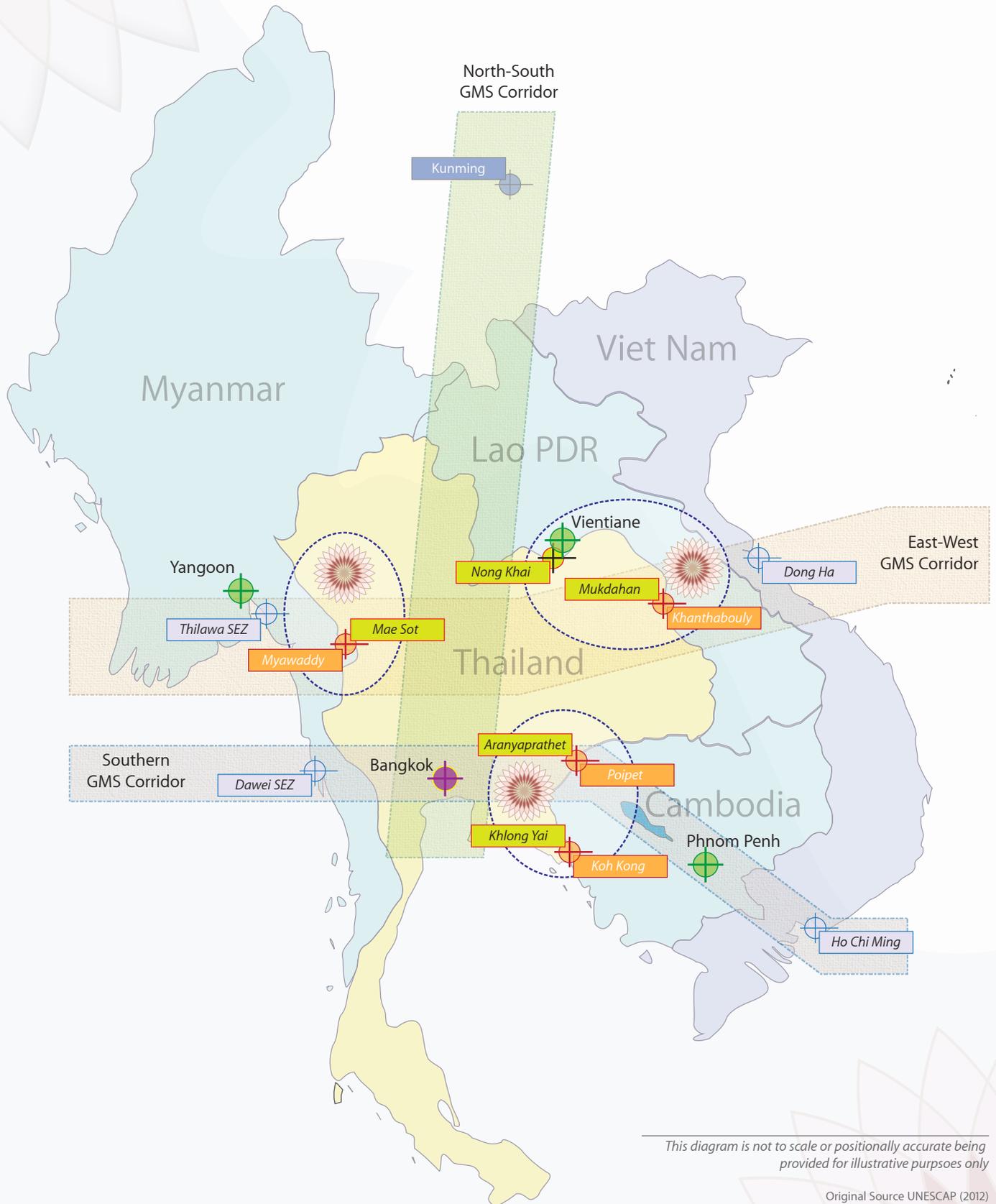
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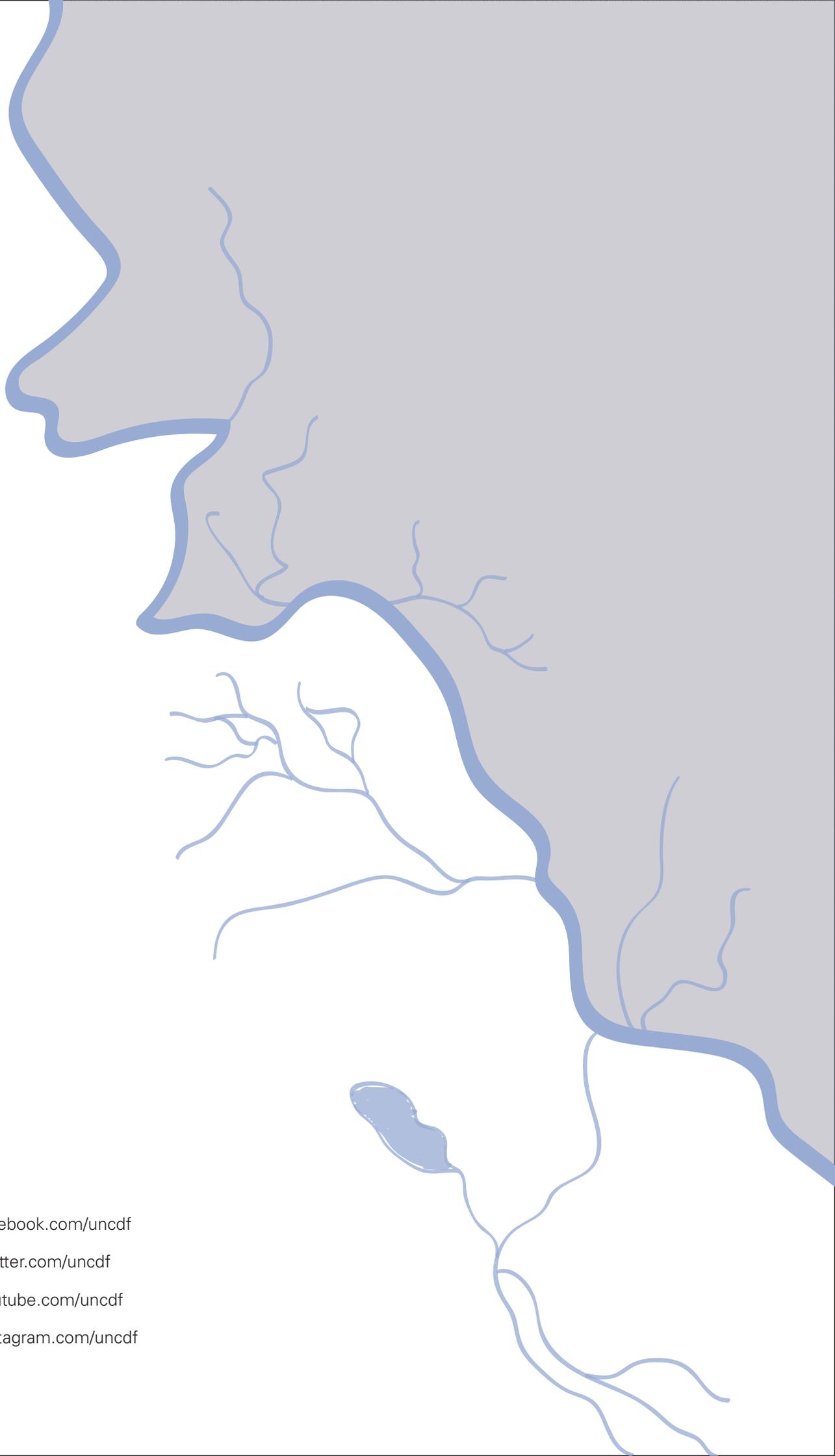
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Key Border Development Areas - UNCDF Scoping Study





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