



GMS Program Updates

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3rd GMS Energy Transition Task Force

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Outline of Presentation



I. GMS Program Updates

- Broadening Engagement
- 8th GMS Summit of Leaders
 - ❑ Proposed Deliverables for Endorsement and Notation
- Other Activities & Initiatives

II. GMS Regional Investment Framework (RIF)

- RIF 2024-2026 (RIF 2026)
- RIF 2025-2027 (RIF 2027)

I. GMS Program Updates: Broadening Engagement



Cooperative efforts to implement the GMS Economic Cooperation Program Strategic Framework 2030 (GMS-2030) continue

Ongoing work to broaden support for the GMS Program:

- private sector, local governments, development partners, and knowledge institutions
- developing key drivers of development — innovation and digitalization
- facilitating regional trade and investment, development of special economic zones in key border areas
- expanding knowledge creation & cooperation

I. GMS Program Updates: 8th GMS Summit of Leaders



 **Host:** People's Republic of China

 **Schedule:** November 2024

 **Venue:** Yunnan Province, PRC

Proposed Key Deliverables



For Endorsement

GMS Innovation Strategy for Development 2030



- Concept note has been endorsed by the GMS Ministers at the 26th GMS Ministerial Meeting in Dec. 2023.
- Consultation meetings and workshops ongoing in March-May 2024.
- Recognizes the crucial role of innovation as a key driver of development and will aim to accelerate the subregion's development and maximize benefits from innovation while addressing its possible disruptive impacts.
- It will leverage the specific capabilities of the GMS countries and promote collaboration among them in enhancing investments and entrepreneurial activity for development.

I. GMS Program Updates: 8th GMS Summit of Leaders



Proposed Key Deliverables



For Notation

- ✓ Strategic Approach for Local Governments' Engagement with the GMS Program
- ✓ GMS Gender Strategy Implementation Plan 2025-2030
- ✓ GMS Digitalization Action Plan (2025-2027)
- ✓ Strategic Approach for Private Sector Participation in the GMS Program
- ✓ GMS Regional Investment Framework 2025-2027 (RIF 2027)
- ✓ GMS Sector Strategies



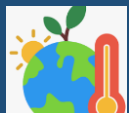
Energy



**Health
Cooperation**



Transformation of Agri-food Systems



**Accelerating Climate Action and
Environment Sustainability**



Tourism



Transport



Urban Development

I. GMS Program Updates: Other Activities & Initiatives



GMS Innovation Strategy for Development

- A high-level strategic document in response to the Leaders to apply innovation to the priorities of the GMS Program
- Consultation with GMS countries and ADB energy **energy sector** held in May 2024



GMS Knowledge Network

- A mechanism to facilitate building and sharing of knowledge and capacity in specific development topics; **Energy** (i.e., regional power trade, market development integration, cross-border interconnection, green energy consumption) is one of the 4 main sectors/topics/themes identified to be addressed by the GMS Knowledge Network.



Regional Investment Framework

- RIF 2024-2026 GMS Countries/SOM confirmed in May 2024
- RIF 2025-2027 preparation is ongoing/awaiting **ETTF** inputs



GMS Gender Strategy Implementation Plan 2025-2030

- Provides GMS Program activities, outputs, and performance indicators to achieve the GMS Gender Strategy Objectives
- Identify entry points for gender mainstreaming in the Energy sector

I. GMS Program Updates: Other Activities & Initiatives



**Re-strategizing
Economic Zones and
Border Economib
Zones in the GMS**

**Deepening Private
Sector Engagement
in the GMS Program**

Gender Strategy

**GMS Results
Framework**

**Labor Mobility and
Safe Migration**

**Trade and
Investment**

II. GMS Regional Investment Framework (RIF)



GMS Regional Investment Framework 2024-2026 (RIF 2026)



Greater Mekong Subregion
Economic Cooperation Program



**Regional Investment
Framework 2024-2026**

May 2024

RIF 2026 Process
(April – January)

Final inputs received, incorporated, and
circulated to GMS SOM for final review
(January – April)

Minor revisions to draft RIF 2026 after
circulation on 5 April 2024

RIF 2026 comprises **128 projects**
requiring **\$17.7 billion** of financing

II. GMS Regional Investment Framework (RIF)



Minimum

- ✓ **basic identification** project criteria (title, ministry, outcome, outputs);
- ✓ **regional impact** or spillover effect¹;
- ✓ **supported by active sectors** of cooperation under the GMS program (e.g., Working Group);
- ✓ **aligned with GMS** regional and/or national and sector **strategies**;
- ✓ **meet minimum standards of project readiness** and project preparation such as having strong project ownership and a clear project sponsor and having stages of project preparation completed (feasibility study complete, possible source of financing identified, project is included in national investment plans).

Aspirational

- ✓ **multi-country** projects with **regional benefits**;
- ✓ support **spatial development** (ECD, city clusters);
- ✓ **private sector** participation;
- ✓ strong **gender** elements;
- ✓ **green projects**, or support the blue economy;
- ✓ target **poverty alleviation**/reduction;
- ✓ align with international principles for **quality infrastructure**²;
- ✓ foster **digitalization**³.

1 Projects can be multi-country regional projects or a single country project that has regional economic benefit.

2 Quality infrastructure principles include: (i) infrastructure supports sustainable growth and development; (ii) take into account life-cycle cost; (iii) integrate environmental considerations; (iv) build resilience against natural disasters and other risks; (v) integrate social considerations; and (vi) support infrastructure governance.

3 The GMS Digitalization strategy is still under development; this criterion will be added following the approval of the GMS Digitalization strategy and its associated definitions.

II. GMS Regional Investment Framework (RIF)



Review of RIF Criteria

Aspirational Criteria

❖ Quality Infrastructure	60	❖ Private Sector Participation	41
❖ Multi-country project	65	❖ Poverty Reduction	64
❖ Digitalization	35	❖ Gender	39
❖ Spatial development	81	❖ Green or blue economy	50

1. Project aspirational criteria

- **Most common** - “Multi-country,” “Spatial Development,” and “Poverty Alleviation”
- **Least commonly selected** - “Digitalization,” “Private Sector Participation,” and “Gender”

***Recommendation:** Integrate awareness raising of these project criteria into thematic forums and workshops to strengthen these elements in proposed projects.*

II. GMS Regional Investment Framework (RIF)



Review of RIF Criteria

2. Projects generally met the minimum project criteria

- There was close review and quality control of the project proposal templates; GMS National Secretariats and line ministries reverted to the project originators for further details

***Recommendation:** GMS National Secretariats and line ministries continue quality reviews and reverting to project originators to ensure projects have enough information to meet minimum criteria*

Projects did not always have enough information to justify aspirational criteria

***Recommendation:** The GMS program will work on capacity building on the Project Proposal Template and Guidelines to strengthen quality at entry and throughout the vetting and review process.*

Timeline for Preparation of Regional Investment Framework 2025-2027 (RIF 2027)

Timeline 2024	Milestone/Event	
5 April	Official kickoff letter to GMS Working Groups and National Secretariats	-
5 April -3 May (~4 weeks)	Working groups generate project proposals National Secretariats consider other projects that do not have a WG WGs review sector proposals, assess project priority and RIF criteria <u>WGs submit sector proposals to National Secretariats on/before 3 May</u>	Optional capacity building sessions on proposal completion may be requested and scheduled.
3–29 May → 12 June (~3 weeks)	National Secretariats chair a meeting with line ministries to review all sector proposals; validate and prioritize investments <u>National Secretariats submit country RIF inputs to GMS Secretariat on/ before 29 May</u>	GMS Secretariat consults in parallel with development partners and private sector and prepares consolidated RIF 2025-2027
29 May 12-17 June (2 weeks)	GMS Secretariat incorporates feedback from National Secretariats. WGs, Development Partners and Private Sector in draft Consolidated RIF 3-year rolling pipeline	-
Week3 June	Draft Consolidated RIF 3-year (2025-2027) rolling pipeline is circulated to GMS countries for review and/or final clarification of pending items <u>GMS countries submit any final revisions/ feedback by 3 July</u>	
Week2-4 July	GMS Secretariat incorporates feedback from GMS countries and finalizes Draft RIF 2025-2027 (list of projects and overview write-up)	Take up in GMS SOM Technical Meeting or SOM in Q3
August	Draft RIF 2025-2027 circulated for endorsement by GMS Ministers	-
Q4	Endorsed RIF 3-year rolling pipeline noted by GMS Leaders at the 8 th GMS Summit GMS RIF is publicly disseminated for programming of projects in 2025	-

II. GMS Regional Investment Framework (RIF)



Next Steps

- Submit national RIF pipelines to GMS Secretariat **by 29 May (original deadline) requesting energy sector inputs from ETTF by June 12**
- End June / early July preliminary RIF 2027 for review



Thank you!