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About the Greater Mekong Subregion

The Greater Mekong Subregion Economic Cooperation Program supports the implementation of high-priority projects in the six nations that share the Mekong River.

Quick Facts

- History: Established in 1992
- Member countries: [Cambodia](#) [2], the [People's Republic of China](#) [3] (specifically Yunnan Province and Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region), [Lao People's Democratic Republic](#) [4], [Myanmar](#) [5], [Thailand](#) [6], and [Viet Nam](#) [7]
- Secretariat: [Asian Development Bank](#) [8]
- Projects in the pipeline: [More than 200, requiring more than \\$60 billion in financing](#)

[9]

Statistics

- Population: 340 million (2016)
- GDP at PPP (current international dollars): \$3.1 trillion (2016)
- Intra-GMS Trade: \$444 billion (2015)
- [View more statistics.](#)

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Overview

The Greater Mekong Subregion comprises Cambodia, the People's Republic of China (specifically Yunnan Province and Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region), Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Thailand, and Viet Nam.

In 1992, with assistance from the [Asian Development Bank \(ADB\)](#) [11], these six countries entered into a program of subregional economic cooperation, designed to enhance economic relations. With support from ADB and other donors, the Greater Mekong Subregion Economic Cooperation Program supports the implementation of high-priority subregional projects in [agriculture](#) [12], [energy](#) [13], [environment](#) [14], [health and human resource development](#) [15], [information and communication technology](#) [16], [tourism](#) [17], [transport](#) [18], [transport and trade facilitation](#) [19], and [urban development](#) [20].

[Read more.](#) [21]

Strategy

The Greater Mekong Subregion Economic Cooperation Program Strategic Framework 2012–2022 was adopted at the 4th GMS Summit of Leaders in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar in December 2011. It is anchored on the development of economic corridors, which provides the spatial and thematic focus to the program.

The Strategic Framework for 2012–2022 expands the GMS Program from conventional infrastructure to multi-sector investments designed to foster economic corridor development, involving stronger cross-sectoral linkages, better consideration of regional economic development’s spatial aspects, more local stakeholder involvement, and more effective monitoring and evaluation.

[Read more.](#) [22]

How the program works

The GMS Program is managed by an institutional mechanism, involving both the political and operational levels of the six GMS member countries. The program is based on continuing consultation and dialogue among GMS member countries. The institutional arrangements for the GMS Program are pragmatic and flexible, and guided only by a general set of principles. The GMS institutional structure has three levels:

- the [Leaders' Summit](#) [23],
- the [Ministerial Conference](#) [24] , and
- the working group and forum in the priority sectors.

A unit at ADB headquarters provides [overall secretariat support](#) [8] to the GMS Program in coordination with national secretariats in the GMS countries.

Greater Mekong Subregion Secretariat

Regional Cooperation and Operations Coordination Division, Southeast Asia
Department, Asian Development Bank

Address: 6 ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City 1550, Metro Manila, Philippines

Telephone: +63 2 632 4444

Fax: +63 2 636 2226

Send an email to the [GMS Secretariat](#)

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