



Australian Government

Greater Mekong Subregion Cross Border Transport Facilitation Agreement (CBTA) 'Early Harvest' Implementation

Training Module One (A) – **General Information**

Developed under Project TA-8748 REG Sub-project 2 (SP2) - Support for Implementing the Action Plan for Transport and Trade Facilitation in the GMS

Supported by the Asian Development Bank and Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

- The GMS Cross-Border Transport Facilitation Agreement (CBTA) dates from 1999. It's purpose is to create a common subregional cross-border transport system (based on reciprocity), to make it faster, easier and cheaper to move goods and people throughout the GMS
- Ratification of the Agreement was completed by all GMS countries as Contracting Parties in 2015
- But vehicles were unable to use the Agreement – except under some IICBTAs (bilateral agreements on the initial implementation of the CBTA)
- Conscious of this fact, the Ministers met at a CBTA Joint Committee (JC) Retreat in July 2016 and asked their National Transport Facilitation Committee (NTFC) officials to draft and discuss an 'Early Harvest' CBTA implementation package

- The 'Early Harvest' focusses on the free movement of commercial goods and passenger vehicles
- Each country may issue up to 500 multiple journey GMS Road Transport Permits and Temporary Admission Documents (TADs) to its transport operators (see next slide)
- The TAD is akin to a vehicle 'passport' and must be signed or stamped and dated at the border by the Host country Customs officials when entering and exiting that country
- There is no limit on the number of journeys that can be undertaken, but no single stay in another Host country can last more than 30 days
- Vehicles may enter through one border crossing point and exit through another, but may only use the route network described in Protocol 1 of the CBTA
- At the time of launch, Lao PDR will open NR3 and NR9 from Houayxay to Boten and Savannakhet to Dansavanh plus NR13 from Boten to Nong Nok Khiene
- Myanmar will join the 'Early Harvest' in June 2020



GMS Road Transport Permit*

This document is issued in accordance with Protocol 3 and Article 23 of the Agreement between and among the Governments of the Kingdom of Cambodia, the People's Republic of China, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the Union of Myanmar, the Kingdom of Thailand, and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam for the Facilitation of Cross-Border Transport of Goods and People.

Permit No.

Country code	Permit Number	Barcode
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Type of Permit/Transport Operation:⁷ Scheduled passenger Non-scheduled passenger Cargo

1. Issuing Authority:

1.1 Name: _____
 1.2 Address: _____
 1.3 Contact Data:⁸ _____

2. Beneficiary of the Permit:⁹

2.1 Name: _____
 2.2 Address: _____
 2.3 Contact Data: _____
 2.4 Road Transport Operator's National License:¹⁰ _____

3. Particulars for Scheduled Passenger Transport Operations Only:

3.1 Itinerary: _____
 3.2 Frequency of operations for the beneficiary: _____
 3.3 Maximum Capacity (number of seats/persons): _____
 3.4 Other Restrictions:⁶ _____

4. Period of Validity:⁷ from _____ until _____

5. Allocated Vehicle Registration Number:⁸

Prime mover/Truck/Bus		Semi-trailer	
1		5	
2		6	
3		7	
4		8	

Place and date of issuance: _____ Authentication (Seal/Stamp, Signature) _____

* Warning: Counterfeiting is a criminal offence. This permit entitles its holder to perform cross-border road transport operations in the GMS region, subject to compliance with national laws of the Host Country, and the other conditions of the Agreement. The transport operator shall keep the original of this permit on board the vehicle at all times during cross-border transport operations for inspection and control purposes by authorities. This permit shall be valid only for the vehicle of which the registration number is entered on the permit form. Except for scheduled passenger transport operations, the itineraries are restricted to the entry point, routes, and conditions defined in Protocol 3 to the Agreement.

1. Please tick the type of transport operation.
 2. Contact data may include: telephone number, fax number, email address, etc.
 3. This permit is non-refundable and non-transferable.
 4. The validity of the permit shall be subject to the validity of the holder's/transport operator license.
 5. Other restrictions on this type of transport operations arising from the arrangements on terms and conditions by the Country whose territory is traversed as per Article 1(b) of Protocol 3 to the Agreement.
 6. Provided the permit was used before the expiry of its validity date by entering the territory of another GMS-country than that of its holder transport operator, it shall remain valid until the completion of the transport operation by the return of the vehicle to its Home Country. A cross-border transport operation shall be completed by the exit of the vehicle from the Host Country territory within a period of 30 days from the date of entry in the Host Country territory. If the transport operator is unable to timely leave the Host Country territory, he/she shall inform the Host Country Competent Authority and may be required to file a request for extension.
 7. Type of vehicle should be entered. Only the number(s) entered in the last box prevail(s), if the form has become full within its validity period, the issuing authority shall upon a simple request from its holder forthwith replace the original form.

Hiệp định Tạo thuận lợi vận tải người và hàng hoá qua lại biên giới giữa các nước Tiểu vùng Mê Kông mở rộng

Greater Mekong Subregion Cross-Border Transport Facilitation Agreement



Sổ theo dõi Tạm nhập Phương tiện vận tải

Motor Vehicle Temporary Admission Document

Cộng hoà xã hội chủ nghĩa Việt Nam
Socialist Republic of Viet Nam

The route
network and
border
crossings are
shown here

MAP PENDING

Borders are indicative and not
necessarily authoritative

Green routes and border
crossings will be included
from the launch date

Red routes may be added
later

- Goods transported will continue to observe current domestic Customs procedures (i.e. the CBTA Annex 6 provisions for a subregional system of transit and inland transport will not apply to the ‘Early Harvest’)
- But no financial guarantees (Customs bonds) are required for the movement of vehicles and containers as described by the ‘Early Harvest’ MOU and in the spirit of CBTA Article 18
- Each country will maintain (and share) a list or Register of GMS Road Transport Permits and TADs issued
- Host country (i.e. the GMS country visited) customs officials at the participating Protocol 1 border crossings will control the Permits and TADs by stamping and dating the TADs of foreign vehicles on entry and exit

- Thailand and PRC signed the ‘Early Harvest’ MOU at the Second JC Retreat held in Hanoi in May 2017
- Cambodia, Myanmar and Vietnam signed the MOU (and referendum) in the period to December 2017 and Lao PDR signed the MOU at the 6th CBTA Joint Committee in March 2018, with ‘Early Harvest’ operations to **begin in June 2018**
- A brochure text is being translated into all GMS languages and information on Host country vehicle weight limits and permissible dimensions prepared for posting on the GMS TTF web page at www.greatermekong.org/ttf
- ADB will also help monitor ‘Early Harvest’ implementation and assist with reporting to the NTFCs and CBTA Joint Committee
- Joint Committee meetings (one Retreat and one formal) currently take place twice per year

- A Road Usage Maintenance Charge (RUMC) scheme will be piloted in Lao PDR based on Protocol 2 of the CBTA
- Myanmar is expected to conclude negotiations on a bilateral agreement with Thailand in 2018 – followed by other neighbouring countries – in preparation for its own participation in the ‘Early Harvest’ from June 2020
- A further set of slides Introductory slides is available as Module One (B) and provides further details on compliance issues – relevant both for national authorities as well as for actual transport operators

- Further details on the CBTA ‘Early Harvest’, including the text of the signed ‘Early Harvest’ MOU, specimen copies of the Permits and TADs and copies of the EH brochures, are available at www.greatermekong.org/ttf
- Questions related to ‘Early Harvest’ implementation may be addressed to ADB as follows:

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Thank you!

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