

**Welcome Remarks
by
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**“Workshop on Green Growth in the GMS: Trends and
Priorities”**

23-24 March 2017

Members of GMS Working Group on Environment,
Representatives of development partners,
ADB and National GMS Secretariat and other development
sectors under the GMS Economic Cooperation Program,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to welcome all of you to the Workshop on
Green Growth in the GMS: Trends and Priorities.

It is with great honor for Thailand to have an opportunity to
host this first regional workshop on trends and outlook of
inclusive Green Growth in the GMS. This is one of the three
events to be conducted to generate required inputs to the 5th
GMS Environment Ministers Meeting.

In the last few years, new developments related to social
development and environment management at global,
regional, and national levels have presented both challenges
and opportunities for the GMS natural resources and
environment management.

Globally, the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals/ the SDGs in September 2015 and the Paris Agreement in April 2016 have important implications for all six GMS countries. We will require development partners' support to apply lessons learned from implementing Millennium Development Goals and developing regional capacity for tracking progress on SDGs and implement the country commitments under Nationally Determined Contributions, the NDCs which need multi-sector and multi-stakeholder collaboration.

At the regional level, the adoption of the ASEAN Community Vision 2015 the ASEAN-China Strategy on Environmental Cooperation Action Plan 2016-2020 have provided us with another opportunity to intensify regional cooperation other ASEAN countries and China in order to pursue social development and environmental protection through effective mechanisms to meet the current and future needs of our peoples.

At the GMS level, a Cross-Border Transport Agreement has been ratified by all GMS countries last year. Consequently, increasing the movement of people and goods along the GMS economic corridors will lead to more pressure to the sub-region's natural resources and environment, including the biodiversity landscapes in and around these economic corridors.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Thailand has the honour to host the 5th GMS Environment Ministers' Meeting in the first week of February next year which will provide the good opportunities for Ministers of GMS countries to discuss about the regional environmental

challenge issues in order to identify the policies and address the regional intention to balance the parallel social and economic development with the natural conservation and environmental protection.

Last but not least,

Thailand will always be cooperating with our neighbouring countries in all areas related to environmental protection and biodiversity conservation as well as supporting the South-South cooperation in some GMS countries. We hope that the workshop will benefit from exchanging the lessons learned from the implementation of the GMS Core Environment Program in the past ten years. It is very interesting to know about the trends and outlook of the Core Environment Program in the next five years under the broad theme of Inclusive Green Growth.

We would like to thank you for your participation and contribution and also thank ADB for the kind arrangement as well as wish you all the best and a successful workshop.

Thank you.