

Logistics Development in the Greater Mekong Subregion

Conference Synopsis

The Greater Mekong Subregional Economic Cooperation (GMS-EC) program is a regional effort among the countries and provinces of the Mekong river basin under the leadership of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to develop infrastructure with the goal of expanding trade and growth in the region. Though transportation – specifically the development of north-south and east-west highways – is among the most active components of the GMS-EC program, other components include cooperation on telecommunications, tourism, the environment, and human resource development.

Northern Thailand, specifically the nine most northern provinces of Chiang Mai, Chiang Rai, Phrae, Phayao, Nan, Lampang, Lamphun, Mae Hong Son, and Tak, serves as a crossroads for the North-South and East-West corridors of the GMS-EC program. In addition to the growth of infrastructure, a key sector that is expected to benefit from the GMS-EC program is logistics.

The United States Government welcomes and encourages growth and development in this region and in the logistics sector. To contribute to this development, the U.S. Consulate General in Chiang Mai, in cooperation with the U.S. Embassies in Bangkok, Vientiane, Phnom Penh, the U.S. Consulate General in Chengdu, and the American Chamber of Commerce in Thailand will host a conference in Chiang Mai on March 18 and 19. This two day conference includes speakers from the public and private sectors in Thailand, China, Laos, Cambodia, and the U.S. Topics will range from understanding transportation and customs policies in member countries to a case study of the logistics of the U.S.-Mexico trade relationship to the expanding GMS market.

A second day of workshops on topics such as human resource development, marketing, and building a business network will give participants the opportunity to network with one another and encourage deeper cooperation between key actors, most notably private sector representatives.