**SDC-CUTS-UNESCAP Conference**

*Advocacy for Trade & Investment Facilitation in the GMS Region*

United Nations Conference Centre, Meeting Room F

Bangkok, Thailand, 23-24 November 2006

**Agenda**

**November 23, 2006**

0800-0830  Registration

0830-0930  Inaugural Session
- Welcome Remarks, Marinus W. Sikkel, Office-in-Charge, a.i., Trade and Investment Division (TID), UNESCAP
- Introductory Remarks, Pranav Kumar, Policy Analyst, CUTS
- An overview of the issues and need for Advocacy in GMS, Sailendra Narain, Regional Advisor, Swiss agency for Development and Cooperation

0930-1000  Regional Economic Cooperation Trends and Prospects
- Chair: Tiziana Bonapace, TID, UNESCAP
- An Overview of Economic Cooperation between India and GMS Countries
  - Speaker: Sailendra Narain, Regional Advisor, SDC

1000-1030  Tea/Coffee

1030-1115  Regional Economic Cooperation Trends and Prospects (cont’d)
- Regional Trade Integration Efforts of India, Thailand and China
  - Speaker: Mia Mikic, TID, UNESCAP
  - Discussant:
    - Hank Lim, Singapore Institute of International Affairs

1115-1215  Cambodian Perspectives on Regional Economic Cooperation
- Chair: Sok Sopheak, Deputy Director General, Ministry of Commerce, Cambodia
- Speaker: Samsen Neak, Researcher, EIC, Cambodia
- Discussants:
  - Ham Samnang, Cambodian Institute for Cooperation and Peace, Cambodia

1215-1330  Lunch

1330-1430  Laotian Perspectives on Regional Economic Cooperation
- Chair: Heuan Chanphana, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Laos
- Speaker: Phetlavanh Phimmasone, NUoL, Laos
- Discussants:
  - Douangboupa Latthana, Ministry of Industry and Commerce, Loas
  - Khampheng Vongkhatny, Chambers of Commerce of Laos, Laos

1430-1500  Tea/Coffee

1500-1600  Vietnamese Perspectives on Regional Economic Cooperation
- Chair: Hoang Thi Hoa Binh, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Vietnam
- Speaker: Doan Hong Quang, CDI, Vietnam
- Discussants:
  - Nguyen Thi Thu Ha, Ministry of Planning and Investment, Vietnam
  - Doan Thuy Nga, Vietnam Chamber of Commerce, Vietnam

2000  Reception & Dinner
November 24, 2006

0830-1000  Role of China, India and Thailand as Facilitators for Trade and Investment Facilitation in the GMS Countries
Chair: Bui Quang Tuan, IWEP, Vietnam
Speaker:
Marinus Sikkel, UNESCAP, “Integrating SMEs of the GMS in regional and global value chains”
Prabir De, RIS, India, “Role of China, India and Thailand in Trade Facilitation in the GMS Countries”
Xingmin Yin, China, “China Among Asian Trade Liberalisation: The case of China”
Discussant:
Yann Duval, TID, UNESCAP

1000-1030  Tea/Coffee

1030-1200  Charting Out of A Roadmap and Action Plan for Future Activities
Chair: Bui Quang Tuan, IWEP, Vietnam
Speaker:
Doan Hong Quang, CDI, Vietnam, “Trade policies and multilateral trade negotiations”
Phetlavanh Phimmasone, NUoL, Laos, “Trade and investment facilitation measures in GMS countries”
Samsen Neak, Researcher, EIC, Cambodia, “Institutional capacity building”
Floor Discussions

1200-1300  Lunch