

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
FOR JOINT ACTION TO REDUCE HIV VULNERABILITY
RELATED TO POPULATION MOVEMENT
IN THE GREATER MEKONG SUBREGION**

I. BACKGROUND

Regional cooperation has stimulated dynamic economic growth. Poverty and gaps in economic growth between neighbouring countries are factors contributing, directly and indirectly, to population mobility and HIV vulnerability in the region. To ensure continued prosperity of Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS) countries, it is critical that countries collaborate to protect their economic resources and mitigate the socio-economic and human impacts of HIV and AIDS.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) designed to facilitate a Joint Action Programme for Mobility related HIV Vulnerability Reduction between the GMS countries was signed on 5th September 2001 in Cambodia. This MOU expired in December 2003. In view of the relevance of this MOU in building regional capacity to reduce HIV vulnerability, as well as acknowledging the achievements in the implementation of the Joint Action Programme to date by the regional, inter-country and in-country efforts at the 11th ASEAN Task Force on AIDS (ATFOA) meeting in 2003, representatives from the Signatory Countries of the MOU decided to update and extend the MOU for strengthened collaboration in building regional capacity to reduce HIV vulnerability. UNDP South East Asia HIV and Development Programme, the World Health Organization and the ASEAN Secretariat previously supported this effort. In 2004, the MOU was updated and extended. This MOU expired again in December 2009. At the 9th Meeting of the GMS Working Group on Human Resource Development, supported by the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the six GMS countries recommended to amend and renew the MOU. This was confirmed at the 3rd GMS Workshop on HIV Prevention and Infrastructure in Vientiane in September 2010.

Recognizing the mutual interests in renewing the MOU, the National AIDS Authority of The Kingdom of Cambodia, the Ministry of Health of The People's Republic of China, the Ministry of Health of The Lao People's Democratic Republic, the Ministry of Health of The Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Ministry of Public Health of The Kingdom of Thailand and the Ministry of Health of The Socialist Republic of Viet Nam (hereinafter referred as "the Parties") agreed on the following:

II. OVERALL OBJECTIVE

The overall objective of this MOU is to reduce HIV vulnerability and promote access to prevention, treatment, care and support among migrants and mobile population and affected communities in the GMS countries.

III. AREAS OF COLLABORATION

Taking into consideration the 4th ASEAN Work Program on HIV and AIDS (2011-2015), GMS Health Cooperation under the framework of *GMS Working Group on Human Resource*

Development, and existing cross-border collaboration, the Parties to this Memorandum of Understanding agree to the following areas of collaboration:

1. ***Promote improving policy environment and enabling mechanisms:***
 - i) Support improving policy environment and facilitate the development and adoption of legislations to reduce HIV vulnerability, stigma & discrimination, and promote access to prevention, treatment, care and support by improving systems of governance on development related mobility.
 - ii) Strengthen intra- and inter-country multi-sectoral collaboration, including public-private partnership, on HIV vulnerability related to migrants and mobile population at the local, national and regional levels.

2. ***Promote community-based strategies that reduce HIV vulnerability:***
 - i) Promote community-based development approaches using people-centered approaches by empowering communities affected by development-related mobility to prevent HIV infection.
 - ii) Enhance information dissemination, education and behavior change communication in HIV/AIDS prevention for the community of migrants and mobile populations.

3. ***Promote access to HIV and AIDS prevention, treatment, care and support:***
 - i) Promote leadership and political commitment at the community, national and regional levels to improve access to prevention, treatment, care and support.
 - ii) Support strategies that ensure access to comprehensive HIV and AIDS prevention, treatment, care and support for migrant and mobile populations.

IV. IMPLEMENTATION AND COORDINATION ARRANGEMENT

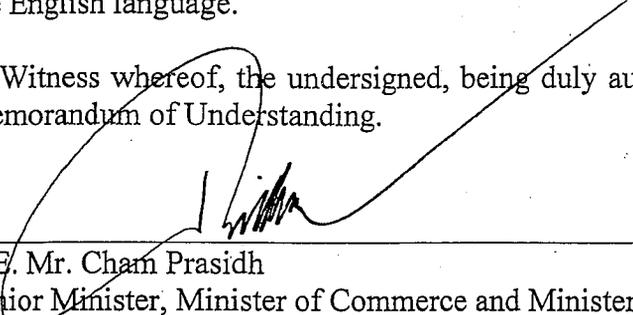
1. To implement the MOU, the parties agreed to develop a Joint Action Plan that maximizes opportunities for both bilateral and multilateral cooperation, and based on this Joint Action Plan, each GMS country shall develop its own action plan.
2. In order to coordinate cooperation between countries, the parties agreed to designate their respective focal points, using existing regional coordination mechanisms, such as the GMS Working Group on Human Resource Development and others.
3. Monitoring and evaluation will be included in the action plan and include annual meetings of the focal points, either independently or attached to existing regional meetings, such as ATFOA, the Joint United Nations Initiative on Mobility and HIV/AIDS in South East Asia (JUNIMA) and GMS Working Group on Human Resource Development annual meetings.
4. Funding for activities specified in the Joint Action Plan will be sought by respective governments either internally or from external sources.

V. TERMS OF THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

The Memorandum of Understanding shall enter into force on the date of signing and shall remain in force for a period of five (5) years. This Memorandum of Understanding may be amended by mutual consent in writing of the Contracting Parties. This amendment shall constitute an integral part of the Memorandum of Understanding.

Signed at Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar on 20 December 2011, in six (6) original copies, written in the English language.

In Witness whereof, the undersigned, being duly authorized by the Parties, have signed this Memorandum of Understanding.



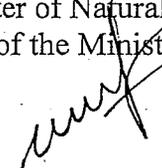
H.E. Mr. Cham Prasidh
Senior Minister, Minister of Commerce and Minister in charge of GMS Cooperation Program
On behalf of the National AIDS Authority, Kingdom of Cambodia



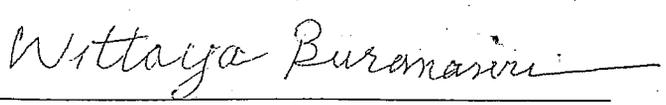
H.E. Mme. Fu Ying
Vice Foreign Minister
On behalf of the Ministry of Health, People's Republic of China



H.E. Mr. Noulinh Sinbandhit
The Minister of Natural Resources and Environment Ministry, cum Lao GMS Minister
On behalf of the Ministry of Health, Lao People's Democratic Republic



H.E. Dr. Pe Thet Khin
Union Minister
Ministry of Health, Republic of the Union of Myanmar



H.E. Mr. Wittaya Buranasiri
Minister of Public Health of Thailand
Ministry of Public Health, Kingdom of Thailand



H.E. Nguyen Viet Tien
Vice Minister
On behalf of the Ministry of Health, Socialist Republic of Viet Nam