

Creating Entrepreneurial GMS

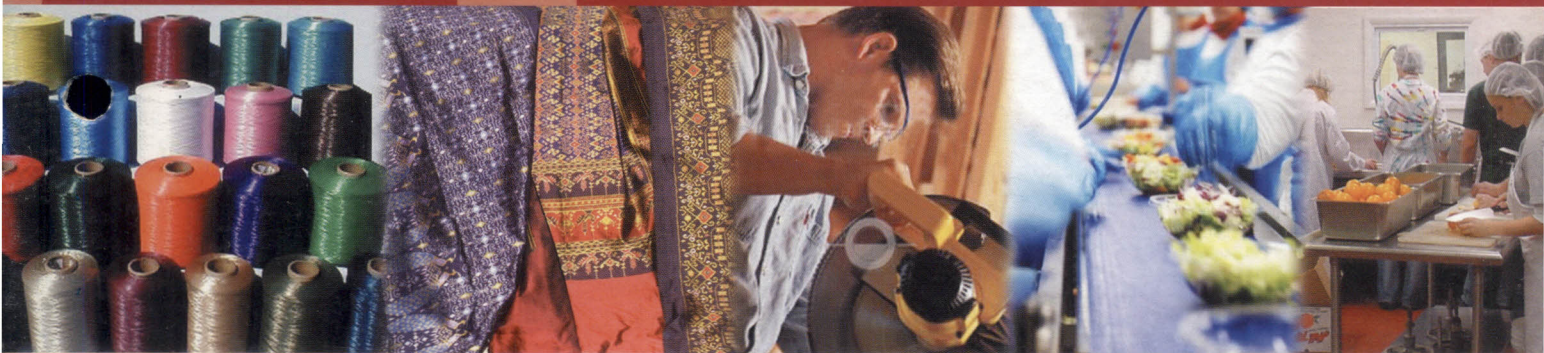
“Unleashing

Entrepreneurship

for Development and Trade”

Awareness Workshop for Greater Mekong Sub-region

Vientiane, Lao PDR
29th October-1st November 2007



Sponsored by ;



Global Issues and
Sustainable Development,
Swiss Agency for
Development and Cooperation
Bern, Switzerland

In partnership with



Mekong Institute,
Khon Kaen
Thailand

Organized by



Entrepreneurship Development
Institute of India,
Ahmedabad, India

Introduction

The Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) comprises Cambodia, The People's Republic of China (Yunnan Province), Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam. In the Subregion, Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) play significant role and the share of SMEs in total number of enterprises ranges from 96% in Thailand to 99% in Laos & Cambodia. By and large, SMEs in GMS countries have shown great potential in development and trade. But at the same time, they have been facing enormous challenges, particularly, in dealing with developing entrepreneurial competencies of potential entrepreneurs at large; creating conducive business environment; introducing a mechanism for public private partnership, maintaining consistency in policy formulation and its implementation and also increasing inter/intra regional trade integration to look beyond the domestic market. In this regard, it has become a need to sharpen entrepreneurial mindset, revitalize existing enterprises, create conducive business environment and strengthen inter/intra regional trade cooperation.

Responding to the needs, Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India (EDI) conducted a regional workshop on 'Unleashing Entrepreneurship for Development and Trade' for GMS region, in association with Mekong Institute (MI), Thailand. The workshop was supported by **Global Issues and Sustainable Development (GISD), Division of Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), Switzerland** and was organized at Bangkok during November 2006. Senior officials representing the government sector, academia, trade, industry and media from Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand and Vietnam participated in the workshop. On the basis of excellent feedback received from the delegates at the end of workshop, it was felt that such interventions must continue in future in other countries of GMS too.

GISD-SDC subsequently commissioned EDI to organize a series of workshops in selected countries, conduct a research study and disseminate relevant information through seminars under the project titled '**Unleashing Entrepreneurship for Development and Trade**'. As a part of this, EDI announces the first activity of the current project: **Awareness Workshop in Lao PDR**.

The Government of Lao PDR, in its ongoing five year plan (2006-10), is focusing on promoting economic development with human resource development as a key vehicle; increasing competitiveness of potential entrepreneurs and utilizing competitive advantages to effectively implement international economic commitments in the framework of the ASEAN and other bilateral and multilateral commitments. Keeping this in view and other factors, and to institutionalize the efforts, the first awareness workshop is being conducted in Vientiane, Lao PDR.

Objectives

The overall objective of the workshop is to spread and strengthen entrepreneurship in GMS region through capacity building, research, networking and increasing regional and global trade under prevailing WTO regime.

The specific objectives are to :

1. Create awareness about raising entrepreneurial potential of GMS region and actions thereof.

2. Reinforce competitiveness of SME sector to excel in the world market.
3. Impart understanding on WTO provisions, implications for SMEs and role of various stakeholders.
4. Deliberate on trade negotiations, advocacy, policy influencing and other relevant issues.

Venue and Duration

Venue: Don Chan Palace, Vientiane, Lao PDR

Duration: 29 October - 1 November 2007

Major Themes and Coverage

Creating Entrepreneurial GMS

- Entrepreneurial Mindset
- About Entrepreneurship
- Ensuring continuous supply of competent entrepreneurs
- Enabling environment for entrepreneurship
- Creating entrepreneurial society through conducive policy framework

Capacity Building

- Stakeholders' skills and capacity development



Delegates of the Workshop organised at Bangkok in November, 2006

- Entrepreneurial education, Vocational training and institutional network
- Advocacy, negotiation skills and other capacity building efforts

WTO, International Trade And GMS Countries

- Perceptions of GMS countries by international market and vice versa
- WTO and International Trade of GMS countries
- WTO and Trade Facilitation
- WTO and Regional Trade Agreements (RTA)
- Special and Differential Treatment (SDT) provisions under WTO for developing countries
- Other issues and provisions of interest for GMS countries

Strengthening the SMEs in GMS Countries

- SMEs, in vogue, in GMS countries
- Policy led measures to remove/reduce barriers
- Sustainable development strategy for SMEs
- Inter/Intra Regional Trade and Economic Cooperation
- Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and SMEs

During the workshop, a one-day visit to selected enterprises will also be organized to supplement the deliberations.

Participation

- About 25 delegates, from private sector enterprises and other institutions, to attend from all six countries [viz; Cambodia, The People's Republic of China (Yunnan Province), Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam] of GMS
- About 60% representation from Lao People's Democratic Republic, while the rest from other GMS countries

Faculty Support

Faculty support is to be drawn from institutions of repute like MI, IIFT, UNESCAP, GMS Business Forum, LIEDC, besides EDI.

Follow Up Action

Necessary follow up action as also other workshops would ensure sustenance of efforts.

Sponsoring and Implementing Agencies

Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India (EDI)

The project is to be implemented by **EDI, Ahmedabad, India** in association with **Mekong Institute, Thailand**. Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India (EDI), an autonomous and not-for-profit institute, set up in 1983, is sponsored by apex financial institutions - the Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI), Industrial Finance Corporation of India Ltd. (IFCI), Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India Ltd. (ICICI), State Bank of India (SBI) and the Government of Gujarat. The institute is working in the area of entrepreneurship education, training & development and research.

Under overall professional guidance and technical support of EDI, as a part of India ASEAN Initiatives to assist small and medium enterprises (SMEs) through capacity building and other interventions, Entrepreneurship Development Centres have already been established in Cambodia, Lao PDR and Vietnam while the centre in Myanmar is underway. Besides, EDI has been actively involved in several major international activities of importance. In recognition of its remarkable international achievements, the United Nations Economic & Social Commission for Asia and Pacific (UNESCAP), Bangkok, Thailand, has acknowledged EDI as a '**Centre of Excellence**'

Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)

The sponsoring agency for this project is **GISD-SDC**. The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) is Switzerland's international cooperation agency within the Swiss Foreign Ministry. It has a policy analysis unit dealing with international trade and financing for development, called the **Global Issues and Sustainable Development (GISD) Division**.

Further, under its broad objective of multilateral economic cooperation programme in South and South East Asia GISD's focus is on capacity building of GMS countries in terms of trade, investments, environment and fiscal issues along with sub-regional and inter regional economic and trade integration.

Mekong Institute (MI)

Mekong Institute (MI) will be the partner institute for the GISD-SDC sponsored workshops. **Mekong Institute (MI)** is an independent GMS organisation chartered to provide specialised learning programmes for key public and private sector personnel in the areas of leadership, development and regional cooperation. It serves the countries of the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS): *Cambodia, Lao P.D.R., Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam and Yunnan Province of China*.

Lao-India Entrepreneurship Development Centre (LIEDC)

The Partner for the Workshop at Lao People's Democratic Republic

Lao-India Entrepreneurship Development Centre, Vientiane, is a national resource institution in entrepreneurship development. It was set up in 2004, as a part of India ASEAN Initiatives to assist small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) through training programmes and creating

opportunities for small and medium entrepreneurs to access domestic and international markets and credit sources. The main aim of LIEDC is to create a large number of trained entrepreneurs who would need support in identifying and promoting their investment projects as well as in enhancing the competitiveness of their existing enterprises. Interventions are, therefore, needed in the areas of New Enterprise Creation and Enterprise Upgrading thereby paving the way for sustained SME development in Lao PDR.

For further information and registration, please contact:

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