

Concept Note

Closing Workshop and Regional Expert Forum

Trade as a main driver for regional economic integration?

Brief Introduction	
Format	Workshop with expert inputs and group discussions
Date	19/20 March 2019
Place(s)	Bangkok , Thailand
Participants	Approx. 30 from Cambodia, China, Lao PDR, Mongolia, and Viet Nam
Language	English

Background

The **Support for Economic Cooperation in Sub-Regional Initiatives (SCSI) in Asia Programme**, is commissioned by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH. The objective of the programme is to strengthen and improve the quality of economic cooperation between selected focus countries – Cambodia, Lao PDR and Vietnam in the framework of the ASEAN-China Free Trade Agreement (ACFTA); Mongolia in the framework of the Greater Tumen Initiative (GTI) – and PR China to ensure the equal inclusion of the countries' interests in regional integration processes in Asia. The programme thereby operates in three areas: 1) enhancing the structural conditions of regional economic cooperation; 2) improving the implementation capabilities of the relevant stakeholders; 3) fostering the inclusion of the private sector in relevant processes.

Regional economic cooperation and integration (RCI) thrives in an environment of trust and open information sharing. In some respects, the willingness of the involved key actors still lacks the commitment and basis in this regard. The programme supports network building among its partners to foster inclusive government-to-government relations as well as the exchange between sub-regional institutions and other regional cooperation mechanisms. Through regional workshops and conferences, the programme contributes to the exchange and replication of best practices in areas like trade facilitation, private sector enhancement, or cross-border cooperation.

Objectives

To conclude its current programme phase and strengthen a continuous networking and knowledge exchange among its partners, SCSI will conduct a “Closing Workshop and Regional Expert Forum” on 19-20 March in Bangkok, Thailand.

The event aims to bring together stakeholders, experts and its main partners from Cambodia, China, Lao PDR, Mongolia, and Viet Nam. Focus will be on inclusion of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) into RCI processes and supporting sub-regional initiatives and mechanisms for regional economic cooperation.

Method

On the Day I, GIZ experts and partners will give thematic inputs on key points of RCI processes in Asia. The inputs will be followed by moderated discussions as well as group work. Day II will have specific academic inputs on trade related capacity building for SMEs and poverty reduction. The inputs will be followed by plenary and panel discussion.

Participants

Cooperation and implementation partners of the GIZ SCSI Programme as well as RCI experts, academia, representatives from sub-regional initiatives and institutions.

Further Information		
Sponsor	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)	
Organiser	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH Programme "Support for Economic Cooperation in Sub-regional Initiatives in Asia (SCSI)"	
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