

TABLE OF PRIORITY ACTIVITIES: CUSTOMS PROCEDURES

Strategic Objective ~ To Promote Simplification, Harmonization and Transparency in Customs Procedures, with a view to Reducing Trade Barriers and Minimizing Transaction Costs, and Improving the Efficiency and Quality of Trade Data Collection				
Principal Action I: Simplify Customs laws, regulations and procedures in each GMS country by aligning them with key international standards (e.g. the Revised Kyoto Convention; the WTO Agreements on Valuation and Rules of Origin; ASEAN Harmonized Tariff Nomenclature; etc), and develop a harmonised approach – particularly in relation to procedures, forms and formats – between all GMS countries				
Description of Activities	Target Date	Indicators of Achievement	Institutions Responsible	Risks & Assumptions
To identify and close gaps between benchmarks set out in the Kyoto Convention, and the existing situation in each GMS member; and to identify and address law, regulations, procedures and forms which can be harmonized across the GMS.	At the latest by 31 December 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Gap analysis completed, results enumerated, and shared between GMS countries. – Effective existing simplifications in one or more GMS member taken up by others. – Further opportunities to harmonize law, regulations, procedures and forms between GMS countries identified and agreed. – Simplification/harmonization 'action program', with measurable annual targets, initiated. 	<p>GMS Customs Administrations</p> <p>GMS SFA-TFI Units</p>	<p>Risks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Lack of political commitment in GMS Countries. – Overlap/duplication with other external assistance. <p>Assumptions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Effective coordination between GMS countries. – Effective coordination with Activity AII. – Activity supports CBTA. – Activity takes full account of, and seeks to integrate with, other relevant initiatives, activities and projects.

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Principal Action II: Improve the transparency, for trade operators and the public, of all GSM Customs laws, regulations, procedures and forms, e.g. through appropriate publications in English (as required by Annex 4, Article 31 of the CBTA)

Description of Activities	Target Date	Indicators of Achievement	Institutions Responsible	Risks & Assumptions
To develop a multi-media GSM 'Customs Information Platform' which enables trade operators and the public in all GSM countries, and externally, to access comprehensive, accurate and up-to-date information about Customs law, regulations, procedures and forms in each GSM country.	At the latest by 31 December 2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - GSM Custom's law & procedures database developed and operational. - Links to website on GSM Countries' Customs, Trade & Investment websites, and on ADB website, fully functional. - Database & website update and maintenance arrangements in place. - Multilingual 'information notices', leaflets, explanatory notes, posters etc produced and distributed to trade bodies, customs brokers, public areas, etc, etc. - Traders and trade representatives trained. 	<p>GSM Customs Administrations</p> <p>GSM SFA-TFI Units</p>	<p>Risks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lack of political commitment in GSM Countries. - Overlap/duplication with other external assistance. <p>Assumptions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Availability of development finance. - Appropriate counterpart inputs from GSM beneficiaries. - Activity supports CBTA. - Activity takes full account of, and seeks to integrate with, other relevant initiatives, activities and projects.

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Principal Action III: Reduce Customs control at the frontier through the development of Customs post-clearance / post-release control regimes, supported by effective risk management systems and procedures, in each GMS country

Description of Activities	Target Date	Indicators of Achievement	Institutions Responsible	Risks & Assumptions
<p>To develop the capability within GMS Customs administrations to apply post-clearance / post-release controls, and associated simplified import / export procedures, based upon sound risk management principles.</p>	<p>At the latest by 30 June 2009</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Post-clearance / post-release controls in place. - Associated risk management systems in place. - Associated simplified forms and procedures in place. - Responsible Customs officials trained. - Volume of Customs controls at the frontier reduced. 	<p>GMS Customs Administrations</p> <p>GMS SFA-TFI Units</p>	<p>Risks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lack of political commitment in GMS Countries. - Overlap/duplication with other external assistance. <p>Assumptions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Customs law in participating GMS countries permits such controls. - Availability of development finance. - Appropriate counterpart inputs from GMS beneficiaries. - Activity takes full account of, and seeks to integrate with, other relevant initiatives, activities and projects.