

## **Second GMS Agriculture Ministers' Meeting**

**Siem Reap, Cambodia**

**8 September 2017**

### PRIVATE SECTOR STATEMENT

1. We, the Food Industry Asia, who represents the food companies in the Asia region, are grateful to participate in the second GMS Agriculture Ministers' Meeting in Siem Reap, Cambodia.
2. We congratulate the GMS Core Agriculture Program<sup>2</sup> for successfully organising The Second GMS Agriculture Ministers' Meeting - GMS: Towards inclusive, safe and sustainable agriculture value chains.
3. We appreciate the GMS Working Group on Agriculture for broadening the platform to allow more private sector engagement in this very important collaboration initiative to strengthen the food safety system in the Greater Mekong Subregion.
4. Through the Meeting, we recognise that a regional approach to food policy driven by private and public interests will enhance protection of consumers and suppliers in the Greater Mekong Subregion, will support scaling up productivity and quality of the products, and will facilitate product marketing.
5. Using the power of partnership, we, in collaboration with GMS Working Group on Agriculture have the opportunity to launch a sustainable, multi-stakeholder regional effort to improve food safety in the region with the adoption of a risk-

based approach built on successful models that addresses the whole supply chain while promoting a climate for sustainable growth.

6. The GMS Strategy 2018-2022 presents tremendous opportunity for private sector's engagement in the region. We the private sector in collaboration with the GMS Working Group on Agriculture would like to launch a sustainable, multi-stakeholder regional effort to improve food safety in the region that can lead to enhancing capacity building on a range of areas, including:

- Establishing mechanisms for food safety system verification through laboratory capacity building;
- Building a sustainable food safety traceability system;
- Establishing a food safety risk communication model;
- Strengthening national food safety legislations / regulations; and
- Promoting harmonization of food safety standards that will enhance trade opportunities

7. We are willing to discuss the specifics of the Proposal for the time consideration of the GMS Working Group on Agriculture.

8. We thank the Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia for hosting this meeting and for the warm hospitality we have received. We also thank the governments of the six GMS countries for their advice given to the private sector through our dialogues. We also wish to show our appreciation to the GMS Working Group on Agriculture for supporting this meeting as well as the side events.

Siem Reap, Cambodia on 8 September 2017.