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**EMERGING ECONOMIC CORRIDORS
IN THE MEKONG REGION**

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PREFACE

The Third Thai-Lao Friendship Bridge was opened on November 11, 2011. Expectations have been increasing among people in northeastern Thailand, central parts of Laos and Vietnam. As a matter of fact, before the completion of the bridge, special or specific economic zones were already being planned or constructed in Borikhamsay and Khammuane provinces of Laos at the junctions of Route No. 13 with Route No. 8 and Route No. 12 and near border areas in Quang Binh Province (Route No. 12) and Ha Tinh Province (Route No. 8). A 20% share of Vung Ang Port in Vietnam, which can be connected with the bridge by way of Route No. 8 in Laos and Vietnam, was held by Laos in 2010 and the access road to the port from the border between Laos and Vietnam has already been shortened.

Route No. 8 and Route No. 12, however, have never been designated as an “economic corridor,” while these two routes used to be drawn on a map of the blueprint of transport projects of the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) economic cooperation program. The concept of “economic corridors” has been broadly recognized by the people in the GMS as well as the concepts of “special economic zones” and “deep sea ports.” Even so, a “transport corridor” or a road development project can be transformed into an “economic corridor” with the higher expectations of people who live in the provinces along the corridor irrespective of being designated as an economic corridor or not.

This book is a result of the research project “A Study on Cross-Border Trade Facilitation and Regional Development along Economic Corridors” by the Bangkok Research Center, IDE-JETRO, in fiscal year 2011. The book focuses on potential and emerging economic corridors in the GMS and examines the feasibility of development in provinces along the corridors. In addition, this book focuses on regional development projects and examines the possibility of making the roads from the regional development sites to the metropolises.

In conducting the research project, we called at local governments, ports, border

posts and private companies along the corridors. On behalf of project members, I wish to express our sincere appreciation for the cooperation by the staffs of such organizations.

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ABBREVIATIONS

ACMECS	Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy
ADB	Asian Development Bank
AH	Asian Highway
APEO	Asia Pacific Edible Oil Limited
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
AWPT	Asia World Port Terminals
BIMSTEC	Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation
BOT	Build-Operate-Transfer
BT	Build-Transfer
CBTA	Cross-Border Transport Agreement
CBTI	Cross-Border Transport Infrastructure
CDTA	Cambodia Development Triangle Area
CLV	Cambodia, Lao PDR and Vietnam
CNOOC	China National Offshore Oil Corporation
CPC	Committee for Planning and Cooperation
CRCD	Cambodia Research Centre for Development
CSD	Cutter Suction Dredgers
DBST	double bituminous surface treatment
DHSHD	Department of Human Settlement and Housing Development
DTA	Development Triangle Area
DWT	Dead Weight Tonnage
ECF	Economic Corridor Forum
ERIA	Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia
EWEC	East-West Economic Corridor
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GMS	Greater Mekong Subregion
GOL	Government of Lao PDR
GPP	Gross Provincial Product
GRDP	Gross Regional Domestic Product
GRP	Gross Regional Product

GSM	Geographical Simulation Model
GSM	Global System for Mobile Communications
GSO	General Statistics Office of Vietnam
ha	hectare
HK	Hong Kong
HPH	Hutchison Port Holding
IDE	Institute of Developing Economies
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
ITD	Italian-Thai Development Public Co. Ltd.
IWT	Inland Water Transport
JDI	Japan Development Institute
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
km	kilometer
LOA	Least Available Depth
MDFEZ	Mekong Delta Focal Economic Zone
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
MDR	Mekong Delta region
MIA	Myanmar Industrial Association
MIC	Myanmar Investment Commission
MIEC	Mekong-India Economic Corridor
MIPL	Myanmar Integrated Port Ltd
MIPS	Myanmar Integrated Port Services Private Limited
MITT	Myanmar International Terminals Thilawa
MMRD	Myanmar Marketing Research & Development Co. Ltd.
MODG	Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise
MOLISA	Ministry of Labour, Invalid and Social Affairs
MOP	Ministry of Planning
MOU	Memory of Understanding
MPA	Myanmar Port Authority
MPI	Ministry of Planning and Investment
MW	mega watt
NECF	Neighboring Countries Economic Development Cooperation Fund
NEDA	Neighboring Countries Economic Development Cooperation Agency
NEG	New Economic Geography

NSDP	National Strategic Development Plan
NSEC	North-South Economic Corridor
ODA	Official Development Assistance
OGT	Onshore Gas Terminal
ONGC	Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited
PPAP	Phnom Penh Autonomous Port
PPP	Public Private Partnership
PRC	People's Republic of China
PTTEP	PTT Exploration and Production
RGC	Royal Government of Cambodia
RSA	Rest and Services Area
SBZ	Special Border Zone
SEZ	Special Economic Zone
SINMARDEV	Singapore Myanmar Development
SPDC	State Peace and Development Council
STF	Subregional Transport Forum
TEU	Twenty Feet Equivalent
TICA	Thailand International Development Co-operation Agency
TSHD	Trailer Suction Hopper Dredger
TSSS	GMS Transport Sector Strategy Stud
UMFCCI	Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
WTO	World Trade Organization