

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
GREATER TUMEN INITIATIVE
AND
THE UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION
FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC**

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Greater Tumen Initiative (GTI) and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), reaffirm their desire to work together in areas of mutual interest through the present Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), which supersedes the MoU signed between the two organizations on 7 June 2013.

II. PURPOSE OF GTI-ESCAP COOPERATION

2. As both GTI and ESCAP have been established with mandates to promote economic development through regional and subregional cooperation and integration, GTI and ESCAP reaffirm their commitment to utilize their respective comparative advantages in order to increase their collaboration and joint activities in support of promoting sustainable development strategies.

III. GENERAL PRINCIPLES FOR GTI-ESCAP COOPERATION

3. GTI and ESCAP will be guided by the following general principles:
- (a) Sharing strategic and operational priorities for collaborative activities; and
 - (b) Utilizing comparative strengths and complementary roles of each organization for identifying and developing regional approaches and programmes.

IV. FOCUS OF GTI-ESCAP JOINT ACTIVITIES

4. It is envisaged that the focus of areas for joint priority activities may include those detailed in the Appendix to this MoU, which may be amended from time to time with the mutual written consent of the two organizations.

V. EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION

5. GTI and ESCAP recognize that effective cooperation depends on open, comprehensive and regular exchange of information at the institutional level. They agree to make appropriate arrangements to:

- (a) provide copies of relevant publications and all public documents of each organization to the main library of the other organization to be maintained as reference documents; and
- (b) give notice, through information posted on the websites of each organization, of:
 - conferences, seminars and workshops being organized or sponsored;
 - regional, country, sector and thematic policy/strategy documents;
 - programme and project approval documents; and
 - regional programme, country programme, sectoral, project and other evaluations.

VI. RECIPROCAL INVITATIONS

6. GTI and ESCAP recognize that appropriate representation is important to emphasize their common interests, purpose and intentions as well as in substantive terms. They agree that:

- (a) reciprocal invitations will be extended to the other organization to attend joint activity-related meetings and other important consultative forums which have a bearing on the envisaged cooperation; and
- (b) invitations to other meetings, conferences, seminars and workshops relevant to cooperation in the priority areas set out in the Appendix to this MoU will be sent where this is appropriate.

VII. PERIODIC CONSULTATIONS

7. GTI and ESCAP recognize that it is important to convene periodic consultations to review what is being planned, what is being implemented, and what is being achieved in terms of results as well as to discuss new challenges, opportunities and problems. They agree to hold such consultations periodically as required and not less than once every two years.

VIII. FOCAL POINTS FOR MANAGEMENT OF THE MOU

8. GTI and ESCAP agree to designate as responsible units for the activities under this MoU:

- (a) for GTI: Director
Greater Tumen Initiative Secretariat
- (b) for ESCAP: Director
Subregional Office for East and North-East Asia

IX. MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF THE MOU AND JOINT ACTIVITIES

9. GTI and ESCAP will prepare:

- (a) a list of all current operational cooperation activities and status of implementation;
- (b) a list with a brief description of all planned cooperation activities for the next calendar year; and
- (c) an indicative list of planned cooperation activities for two subsequent years.

10. GTI and ESCAP agree that:

- (a) the respective focal points will prepare a joint report annually on the status of implementation of the cooperation activities, including an assessment of results achieved;
- (b) the Parties will conduct a joint review or evaluation of the GTI-ESCAP cooperation three years after signature of this MoU, in consultation with the evaluation offices of the respective organizations; and
- (c) these assessments will be reviewed by GTI-ESCAP in considering further cooperation activities, including any necessary amendments to this MoU.

X. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND USE OF INSTITUTIONAL EMBLEMS

11. GTI and ESCAP recognize that the involvement of both organizations in joint cooperation activities needs to be publicized. Within the scope of each organization's applicable rules, regulations and process, they agree that:

- (a) there will be public acknowledgment of the role and contribution of each organization to cooperation projects in all public information documentation related to such cooperation; and
- (b) the use of emblems of each organization in documentation related to cooperation will be in accordance with the current policies of each organization concerning such usage.

XI. MISCELLANEOUS

- 12. GTI and ESCAP agree that the term of this MoU will be from the date of signature by both Parties until 31 August 2022.
- 13. Any specific activities under this MoU shall be covered by a project document or written agreement.
- 14. The MoU may be amended by mutual written consent of the Parties.
- 15. The MoU may be terminated by either organization on six months' notice in writing.

For the United Nations Economic and
Social Commission for Asia
and the Pacific



Shamshad Akhtar
Under-Secretary-General
of the United Nations and
Executive Secretary of ESCAP

Date: 25 August 2017

Place: Bangkok, Thailand

For Greater Tumen Initiative



Bulgantuya Khurelbaatar
Vice Minister for Finance of Mongolia &
Chairperson of the Greater Tumen
Initiative Consultative Commission

Date: 1st of September, 2017.

Place: Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.

APPENDIX

PROPOSED AREAS FOR GTI-ESCAP COOPERATION

1. Facilitating trade and investment in the Northeast Asian subregion.
2. Promoting Paperless trade in the Northeast Asian subregion.
3. Promoting cooperation on E-Commerce.
4. Promoting subregional energy security.
5. Promoting environmental cooperation within the Northeast Asian subregion.
6. Fostering seamless cross-border transportation for countries in Northeast Asia.
7. Strengthening regional cooperation and integration in Northeast Asia towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
8. Promoting agricultural cooperation and food security in Northeast Asia.



ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC
United Nations Building, Rajadamnern Nok Avenue, Bangkok 10200, Thailand

SPMD/MOU/GEN

7 October 2022

Dear Mr. Smoordin,

Memorandum of Understanding between ESCAP and GTI

I would like to refer to the Memorandum of Understanding between the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and Greater Tumen Initiative (GTI) concluded on 1 September 2017 to promote economic development through regional and subregional cooperation and integration.

Over the last few years, the GTI-ESCAP cooperation continued to focus on supporting member countries in trade facilitation and expanded into other areas of connectivity to include transport and energy. The joint initiatives include knowledge sharing (through regular policy dialogues) and capacity building activities. These initiatives have contributed to the implementation of action plans of several GTI sectoral bodies, in line with the overall GTI Strategic Action Plan. In addition, these collaborations have supported the implementation of regional agreements involving GTI member countries, including the *Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific*, and the *Agreement on International Road Transport along the Asian Highway Network*.

With the joint work on trade and transport progressing in parallel, there are still opportunities and synergies between these two sectors that could be explored to further facilitate seamless cross-border connectivity in the subregion. Going forward, ESCAP would like to continue this momentum and strengthen our cross-sectoral coordination on sustainable connectivity. In addition, ESCAP would like to further utilize our joint initiatives on energy to facilitate the shift to renewable energy use to accelerate climate action in the subregion.

To this end, we plan to strengthen the focus of our knowledge sharing activities, taking advantage of the convening of senior government officials in various meetings of GTI sectoral bodies. We also aim to align better our technical assistance activities with the feedback of member countries on their capacity needs and the emerging developments in the subregion. As such, the areas for GTI-ESCAP cooperation indicated in the MoU Appendix are further refined and updated, as follows.

/APPENDIX...

Mr. Andrey Smorodin
Director
Greater Tumen Initiative Secretariat
1-1-142 Tayuan Diplomatic Compound
1 Xindong Road
Beijing 100600, CHINA
Email: gti.secretariat@undp.org

APPENDIX

PROPOSED AREAS FOR GTI-ESCAP COOPERATION

1. Facilitating subregional trade, including paperless trade and e-commerce, and investment, including sustainable finance frameworks.
2. Promoting affordable, reliable, sustainable, modern, just subregional energy transformation and connectivity in line with the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to ensure smooth and effective transitions in accordance with national circumstances and priorities.
3. Promoting cooperation on shared environmental challenges including climate change, air pollution, oceans protection, and supporting subregional environmental mechanisms such as the North-East Asia Subregional Programme on Environmental Cooperation (NEASPEC).
4. Fostering seamless, efficient and resilient cross-border transport connectivity and environmentally sustainable transport systems.
5. Strengthening subregional cooperation and integration towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Therefore, with your concurrence, we would like to propose that the Memorandum of Understanding between ESCAP and GTI be extended for five years, up to 31 August 2027 to promote economic development through regional and subregional cooperation and integration.

All other terms and conditions under the agreement shall remain unchanged. I would be grateful if you could indicate your concurrence in writing to the proposed extension.

Yours sincerely,



Isabela Heng
Officer-in-Charge, a.i.

Strategy and Programme Management Division

12 October 2022

Dear Ms. Isabela Heng,

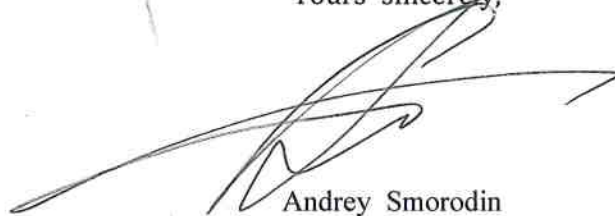
**Subject: Exchange of Letter on the Extension of Memorandum of Understanding
between the ESCAP and the GTI**

With the regard to the current Memorandum of Understanding between United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (hereinafter referred to as "ESCAP") and Greater Tumen Initiative (hereinafter referred to as "GTI") expired on 31 August 2022, we would like to confirm our intention to continue enhancing the cooperation between ESCAP and GTI in the facilitation of the cross-border connectivity in the subregion and promotion of cross-sectoral coordination on sustainable connectivity covering trade, transport and energy sectors in the region.

This letter is to express our agreement to extend the Memorandum of Understanding until 31 August 2027 with the refined and updated appendix, as proposed in your letter dated 7 October 2022.

We appreciate your continuous cooperation and support.

Yours sincerely,



Andrey Smorodin
Director, GT Secretariat

To:

Ms. Isabela Heng

Officer-in-Charge, a.i. / Chief of Section, Programme Management

Strategy and Programme Management Division

UNESCAP