

GMS Trade Facilitation and Capacity Building Workshop: Managing Certification for Agricultural Exports and Exposure to Eco-Trade Supply Chain Management.

Mr. Yi Kim Than (CEDAC) was invited by the Asia Development Bank (ADB) and Earth Net Foundation/Green Net to participate in the Great Mekong sub-regional (GMS) Trade Facilitation and Capacity Building Workshops on Managing Certification for Agricultural Exports from 16 - 17 June 2009 and Exposure to Eco-Trade Supply Chain Management from 18 - 19 June 2009, at the Grand Ayudhaya Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand. The workshops are part of ADB's ongoing study on GMS Agriculture Trade Facilitation and Strategy.

The workshops aim to building the capacity of the private sector and producer organizations to better understand agricultural certifications as new market requirements and to introduce policymakers and entrepreneurs to eco-trade and its supply management. Its goal is to enhance competitiveness around agriculture exports in GMS countries. It also aims to analyze the eco-trade and eco-production initiatives in GMS, including the progress, constraints and lessons learned as well as to have an opportunity to see examples of how producer organizations organize eco-agricultural production chains and eco-trade.

There were 10 participants who came from GMS countries including Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam, Thailand and Myanmar to attend this workshop. The topics covered in the workshop include the reasons why certification is needed, quality grading, food safety, traceability, customs clearance, environmental and social certification, food safety and good practice, global context of eco-agriculture and eco-trade and the overall situation of eco-trade in GMS.

