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ANNEX 7: ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION AND SIGNAGE

To the Agreement between and among the Governments of the Kingdom of Cambodia, the People's Republic of China, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the Union of Myanmar, the Kingdom of Thailand, and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam for the Facilitation of Cross-Border Transport of Goods and People (hereinafter referred to as "the Annex")

The Governments of the Kingdom of Cambodia, the People's Republic of China, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the Union of Myanmar, the Kingdom of Thailand, and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam (hereinafter referred to as "the Contracting Parties"),

Referring to the Agreement between and among the Governments of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the Kingdom of Thailand, and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam for the Facilitation of Cross-Border Transport of Goods and People, originally signed on 26 November 1999 at Vientiane, amended at Yangon on 29 November 2001, acceded to by the Kingdom of Cambodia at Yangon on 29 November 2001, acceded to by the People's Republic of China on 3 November 2002 at Phnom Penh, and acceded to by the Union of Myanmar on 19 September 2003 at Dali City (hereinafter referred to as "the Agreement"),

Referring to Articles 3(b) and (n) of the Agreement to the effect that Annexes and Protocols contain technical details or time- and/or site-specific variable elements and that they form an integral part of the Agreement and are equally binding,

Referring to Article 36 of the Agreement, as amended, per which the Agreement may be signed and ratified or accepted and enter into force separately from the Annexes and Protocols,

Referring to the Ninth GMS Ministerial Conference held in Manila in January 2000, the Seventh Meeting of the Subregional Transport Forum held in Ho Chi Minh City in August 2002, and the 11th GMS Ministerial Conference held in Phnom Penh in September 2002, where the Governments agreed to a work program to finalize the Agreement and its Annexes and Protocols by 2005, and

Referring to Articles 15 and 26 of the Agreement, calling for this Annex to provide technical details,

HAVE AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1: Road Traffic Regulation

The road traffic regulation shall be the rules of the road as prescribed in Attachment 1 to this Annex.

Article 2: Road Signs and Signals

(a) Road signs, signals, symbols, and road markings on the routes and corridors designated in Protocol 1 of the Agreement shall be as prescribed in Attachment 2 to this Annex.

(b) A transition period of four years from the date of entry into force in their territory of this Annex is allowed to the Contracting Parties to gradually replace or supplement any sign, symbol, signal, and marking on the routes and corridors designated in Protocol 1 of the Agreement, which although it has the characteristics of a sign, symbol, signal, or marking belonging to the system prescribed by Attachment 2 of this Annex is used with a different meaning from that assigned in Attachment 2.

(c) A transition period of 15 years from the date of entry into force in their territory of this Annex is allowed to the Contracting Parties to gradually replace any sign, symbol, signal, and marking on the routes and corridors designated in Protocol 1 of the Agreement, which does not conform in principle to the system prescribed by Attachment 2 of this Annex. During this period, in order to familiarize road users with the system prescribed by Attachment 2, previous signs and symbols may be retained beside those prescribed in Attachment 2.

(d) Where Attachment 2 of this Annex does not prescribe a sign, symbol, or marking to signify a certain rule or convey certain information to road users, it shall be open to the Contracting Parties to use for these purposes any sign, symbol, or marking they wish, provided that such sign, symbol, or marking is not assigned a different meaning by Attachment 2 and provided that it conforms to the system prescribed by Attachment 2.

(e) Nothing in this Annex shall be construed as requiring the Contracting Parties to adopt all types of signs and markings prescribed by Attachment 2. On the contrary, Contracting Parties shall limit the number and types of signs or markings they adopt to what is strictly necessary.

(f) The Contracting Parties undertake to prohibit on their territory to affix to or install near a sign or other traffic control device, any object, board, notice, marking or other device that makes the sign less visible and understandable or risks confusing or distracting the road user in a way prejudicial to traffic safety.

Article 3: Clarification

(a) The use of language in road markings, signs, and signals can be limited to a minimum by the use of symbols.

(b) The prescribed use of English/Latin characters and Arabic numerals by no means prohibits the parallel use of the national language.

Article 4: Amendment

Any Contracting Party may propose amendments to the Annex via the Joint Committee. Such amendments shall be subject to the unanimous consent of the Contracting Parties.

Article 5: Ratification or Acceptance

The Annex is subject to ratification or acceptance of the Governments of the Contracting Parties. The same applies to an amendment to the Annex, if any.

Article 6: Entry into Force

The Annex will enter into force on the day that at least two Contracting Parties have ratified or accepted it, and will become effective only among the Contracting Parties that have ratified or accepted it. The same applies to an amendment to the Annex, if any.

Article 7: Conforming National Law

Where necessary, the Contracting Parties undertake to conform their relevant national legislation with the contents of the Annex.

Article 8: Reservations

No reservation to the Annex shall be permitted.

Article 9: Suspension of the Annex

Each Contracting Party may temporarily suspend wholly or partly the application of the Annex with immediate effect in the case of emergencies affecting its national safety. The Contracting Party will inform the other Contracting Parties as soon as possible of such suspension, which will end as soon as the situation returns to normal.

Article 10: Relationship with the Agreement

As a measure to implement the principles laid down in the Agreement, the Annex cannot depart from or be contrary to these principles. In case of incompatibility between the Annex and the Agreement, the latter shall prevail. In case of incompatibility between the Annex and another annex or protocol, such incompatibility shall be interpreted in light of the Agreement.

Article 11: Relationship of the Attachments to the Annex

The attachments shall form an integral part of the Annex and shall be equally binding.

Article 12: Dispute Settlement

Any dispute between or among two or more Contracting Parties on the interpretation or application of the Annex shall be settled directly or by amicable negotiation in the Joint Committee.

Article 13: Denunciation

Once entered into force, the Annex cannot be denounced separately from the Agreement.

Attachments to Annex 7:

Attachment 1: Rules of the Road
Attachment 2: Roads Signs and Signals

In witness whereof, the undersigned, being duly authorized, have signed this Annex.

Done at Phnom Penh on 30 April 2004 in six originals in the English language.

Signed:

For the Royal Government of Cambodia

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His Excellency Tram Iv Tek
Secretary of State, Ministry of Public Works and Transport

For the Government of the People's Republic of China

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His Excellency Hu Xijie
Vice Minister of Communications

For the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic

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His Excellency Sommad Pholsena
Vice Minister of Communication, Transport, Post and Construction

For the Government of the Union of Myanmar

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His Excellency Thura Thaung Lwin
Deputy Minister of Rail Transportation

For the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand

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His Excellency Nikorn Chamnong
Deputy Minister of Transport

For the Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam

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His Excellency Pham The Minh
Vice Minister of Transport