“Building forward better” Policy Package: Mekong Region

Suriyan Vichitlekarn
Executive Director
Mekong Institute
Towards Post COVID-19 Resilient Economies

“Build forward better”

Mekong Sub-region

Suriyan Vichitlekarn
Executive Director
Reflections on Survey Report

• COVID is unprecedented and a set of crises.
• COVID-19 status:
  – Not yet over, outlook is positive but fragile
  – Impact is long, deep with long-lasting effect and under-reported.
  – No linear pathway, uneven (K-shaped) recovery
• Survey report – complementarity with ASEAN’s and GMS’
• Synergies across recovery policy and frameworks
• Struggling and comprehension in setting the course of actions
• Capacity development for implementation support mechanisms
Reflections on SEA Situation

• Regional frameworks and plans developed but unclear implementation plan and support mechanisms
  – ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework (ACRF)
  – ADB Post-COVID19 Economic Recovery in Southeast Asia
  – GMS Strategic Framework 2030 and COVID-19 Response Plan (2021-2023)

• More regional “interventions” and cooperation towards COVID-19 recovery could be seen.

• Implementation issues and support mechanisms
Ways Forward for Mekong Sub-region

• Implementing “Build Forward Better”

• Capacity building, knowledge and knowhow on policy coordination and implementation for resilient and build-forward-better economy
  – Co-benefits & business models for scale
  – Integrating risk management
  – Legal reform VS Mainstreaming good regulatory practices
  – Cooperation along regional economic corridors
  – Peer-to-peer and recovery gaps in CLM(V) support
  – Capturing opportunity and transitioning to green economy and sustainability
Ways Forward for Mekong Sub-region

- Prepare for implementation support (next 12-18 months)
  - **Protecting lives**: One Health Approaches (Human – Animal – Environment)
  - **Projecting the vulnerable and poor**: creative economy, potentials of domestic and intra sub-regional markets and labor mobility
  - **Keeping borders open & accelerating economic activity** (particularly for MSMEs):
    - Improved transport, logistics and trade facilitation
    - Rebuilding agricultural value chains and trade
    - Safe and seamless tourism
    - E-commerce