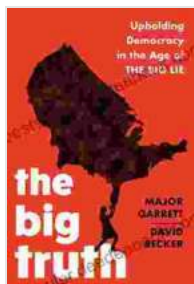


# Transforming Power Development Planning in the Greater Mekong Subregion: Embracing Sustainability, Resilience, and Integration



## Transforming Power Development Planning in the Greater Mekong Subregion: A Strategic and Integrated

**Approach** by Asian Development Bank

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

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The Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS), a diverse and dynamic region comprising Cambodia, China, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam, is undergoing a significant transformation in its power development planning. Driven by the growing demand for energy, coupled with the imperative to address climate change and ensure energy security, the region is embracing sustainability, resilience, and integration as the cornerstones of its future energy landscape.

## **The GMS Energy Landscape: Challenges and Opportunities**

The GMS faces a number of challenges in meeting its energy needs. Rapid economic growth, increasing populations, and urbanization are driving up

demand for electricity. At the same time, the region is heavily reliant on fossil fuels, which are not only a major source of greenhouse gas emissions but also subject to price volatility and geopolitical risks. The region also faces significant disparities in energy access, with rural and remote communities often lacking reliable electricity.

However, the GMS also has significant opportunities to develop its energy sector. The region is endowed with abundant renewable energy resources, including hydropower, solar, and wind. There is also considerable potential for energy efficiency improvements. By harnessing these opportunities, the GMS can reduce its dependence on fossil fuels, mitigate climate change, and improve energy security.

### **Transforming Power Development Planning: Embracing Sustainability, Resilience, and Integration**

To address the challenges and seize the opportunities, the GMS countries are transforming their power development planning. Sustainability is now a central principle, with a focus on developing renewable energy sources, improving energy efficiency, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The region is also prioritizing resilience, ensuring that power systems are able to withstand natural disasters and other disruptions.

Integration is another key aspect of the transformation. The GMS countries are working together to develop a regional power grid, which will allow for the sharing of electricity resources and improve energy security. This will also facilitate the development of renewable energy projects, as it will allow countries to access markets for their surplus electricity.

### **Innovative Approaches to Power Development Planning**

The GMS countries are adopting a number of innovative approaches to power development planning. One approach is the use of integrated resource planning (IRP). IRP is a holistic approach to planning that considers all of the available energy resources, as well as the environmental and social impacts of energy development. This allows for the development of a least-cost, environmentally sustainable energy plan.

Another innovative approach is the use of scenario planning. Scenario planning is a process that involves developing multiple possible futures and analyzing the implications of each future. This allows for more robust decision-making, as it helps to identify potential risks and opportunities.

The transformation of power development planning in the Greater Mekong Subregion is a critical step towards achieving a sustainable, resilient, and integrated energy future. The GMS countries are adopting innovative approaches to address the challenges and seize the opportunities, and their experiences can provide valuable lessons for other regions around the world. By embracing sustainability, resilience, and integration, the GMS can ensure that its energy needs are met in a way that is both environmentally responsible and economically viable.



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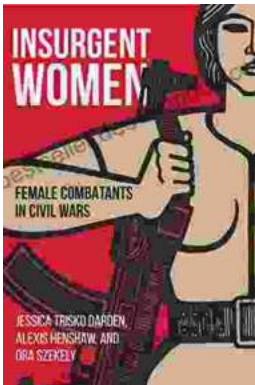
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