Mekong–ROK
Cooperation Fund

DIRECTORY OF
MEKONG-REPUBLIC OF KOREA COOPERATION FUND (MKCF) PROJECTS 2013-2025

PREFACE

Since its inception in 2013, the Mekong–Republic of Korea Cooperation Fund (MKCF) has served as a strategic platform for fostering inclusive, sustainable development and deepening regional integration across the Mekong subregion. Anchored in shared priorities, the Fund has mobilized knowledge, resources, and partnerships to address critical challenges spanning the environment, the infrastructure, the agriculture, the human capital, and the digital transformation.

This booklet presents an overview, highlights and achievements of MKCF-supported projects from Calls 1 to 8, reflecting the fund's commitment to practical solutions, regional collaboration, and long-term impact. Each initiative reflects the Fund's enduring commitment to results-oriented cooperation, regional resilience, and a shared vision of a prosperous, interconnected Mekong community—strengthened by the enduring partnership between the Mekong countries and the Republic of Korea.

We trust this publication will serve not only as a record of progress but also as a catalyst for continued collaboration, innovation, and impact in the years ahead.

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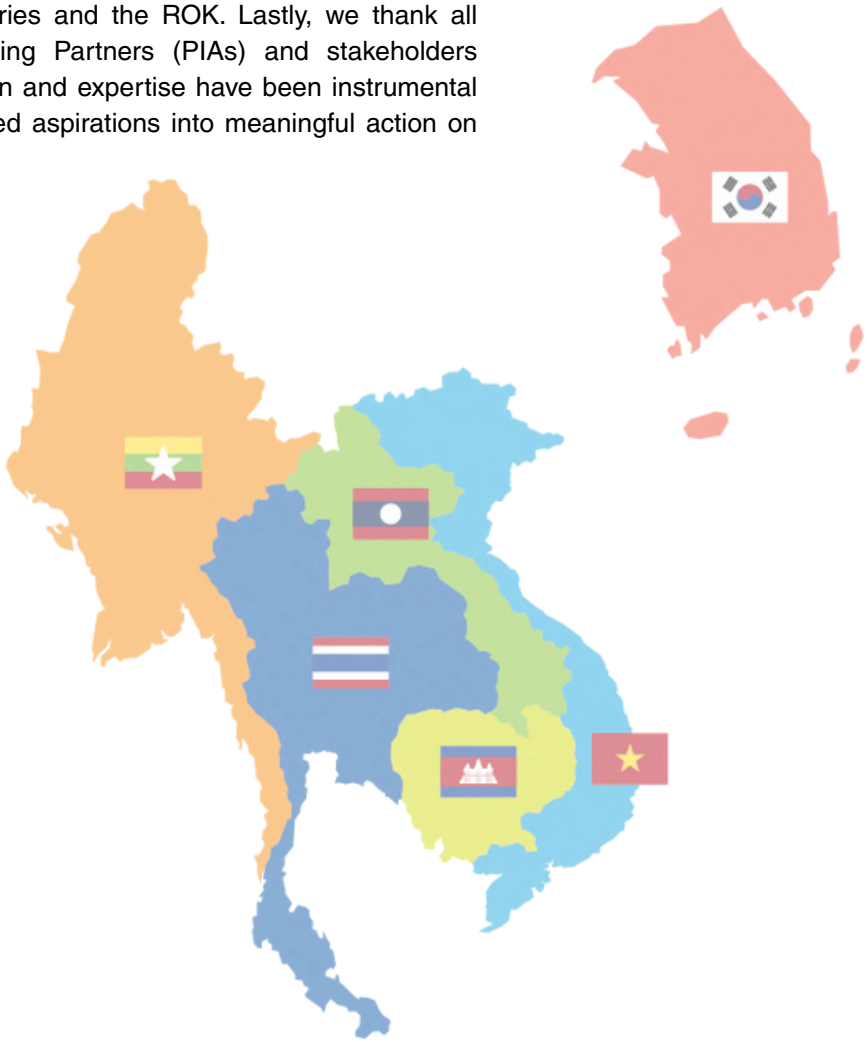
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We extend our sincere appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Korea (ROK) for its steadfast support and commitment to the Mekong–ROK partnership. We also acknowledge the invaluable leadership of the Mekong–ROK Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM) leaders and the dedicated contributions of the Mekong–ROK focal points at the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the five Mekong countries and the ROK. Our gratitude further goes to the line ministries engaged across the Fund's seven priority sectors, as well as to the implementing agencies in both the Mekong countries and the ROK. Lastly, we thank all Project Implementing Partners (PIAs) and stakeholders whose collaboration and expertise have been instrumental in translating shared aspirations into meaningful action on the ground.



MESSAGE FROM MI

Mr. Suriyan Vichitlekarn
Executive Director, Mekong Institute

The Mekong Institute (MI), an intergovernmental organization owned and managed by the governments of the Greater Mekong Subregion, is mandated to promote regional cooperation and development throughout the region. In pursuing this mission, MI works closely with the governments of six countries to foster integration through dialogue, knowledge exchange, and capacity development grounded in local ownership and shared responsibility.

Guided by its Strategic Plan 2021–2025, MI supports inclusive, needs-based regional initiatives that address common challenges and contribute to long-term development outcomes. These priorities align well with the objectives of the Mekong–ROK Cooperation Fund (MKCF), particularly in advancing regional collaboration and narrowing development gaps.

Over the years, MI's partnership with the Republic of Korea has deepened, helping to strengthen Mekong–ROK cooperation by effectively coordinating the MKCF. As the Fund Coordinator, MI plays a facilitating role in translating shared priorities into collaborative regional actions. By engaging government agencies, academic institutions, civil society, and Korean partners, MI supports efforts that strengthen institutional capacities, address common challenges, and facilitate practical cooperation within the Mekong–ROK partnership.

Looking ahead, MI remains committed to nurturing capable and committed human resources who work together for a more integrated, prosperous, and harmonious Mekong region.

MESSAGE FROM MKCF DIRECTOR

Mr. Madhurjya Kumar Dutta
MKCF Director, Mekong Institute

The Mekong–ROK Cooperation Fund (MKCF) aims to support development initiatives that are responsive to national needs while also generating positive impact at the regional level.

Each project is aligned with one or more of the seven priority sectors outlined in the Mekong–ROK Plan of Action. As part of a more programmatic direction, MI is working to highlight how project outcomes contribute to specific sectors, and how progress within those sectors supports the overall goals of Mekong–ROK cooperation. This approach helps clarify the link between project-level results and long-term regional cooperation. By identifying how projects support progress in each sector, we can better design future activities that advance the shared goals of the Mekong–ROK partnership.

To support this approach, we have introduced a results-based Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) system to better assess project outcomes and their potential for replication and scale-up. This enables us not only to measure results more effectively, but also to identify practices that can be scaled and sustained to generate broader regional benefits.
While this system provides a foundation for more structured tracking, we recognize that there is still room for improvement. Ongoing efforts are being made to enhance its functionality, data quality, and relevance to regional cooperation goals.

We believe that initiatives with regional perspectives—those that offer scalable models or lessons adaptable across countries—can deliver more lasting and inclusive impact. Moving forward, MKCF remains committed to supporting practical, results-driven cooperation that contributes meaningfully to a more connected and resilient Mekong–ROK partnership.

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Introduction of the Mekong–ROK Cooperation Fund (MKCF)

Following the launch of the Mekong–Republic of Korea (ROK) partnership in 2011, the Mekong–ROK Cooperation Fund (MKCF) was established in 2013 to support development projects in five Mekong countries: Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam.

From 2013 to 2020, the MKCF prioritized six key sectors: 1. Infrastructure, 2. Information and Communications Technology, 3. Green Growth, 4. Water Resource Development, 5. Agriculture and Rural Development, 6. Human Resource Development.

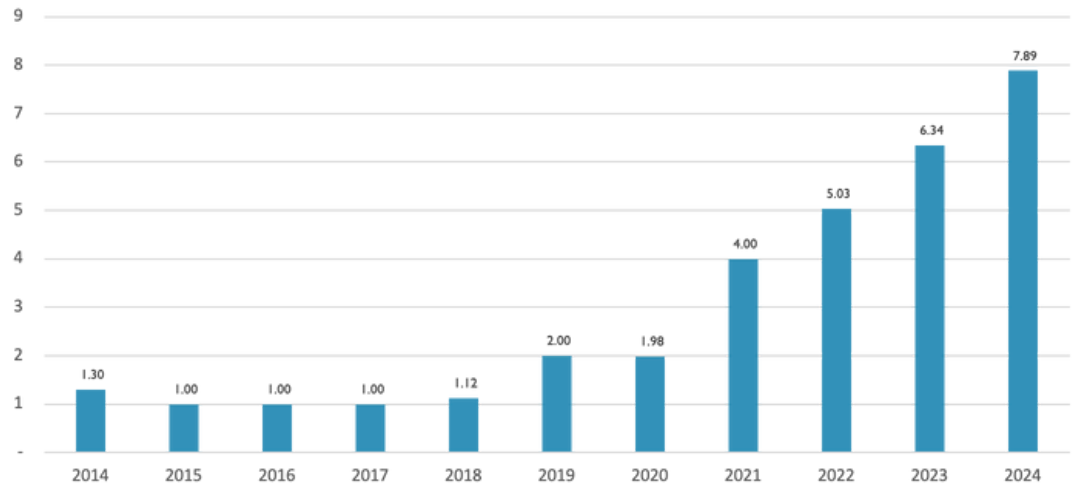
Under the Mekong–ROK Plan of Action 2021–2025, the priority areas have been updated to:

1. Culture and Tourism (CT)
2. Human Resources Development (HRD)
3. Agriculture and Rural Development (ARD)
4. Infrastructure (INF)
5. Information and Communication Technology (ICT)
6. Environment (ENV)
7. Non-traditional Security Challenges (NTSC)

The Fund is administered by the Mekong Institute (MI), which serves as the Fund Coordinator. MI is responsible for reviewing Expressions of Interest (EOIs) and full project proposals, overseeing the disbursement of funds, monitoring project implementation, providing technical guidance as needed, conducting site visits, and maintaining close communication with relevant governmental stakeholders in the Mekong countries.

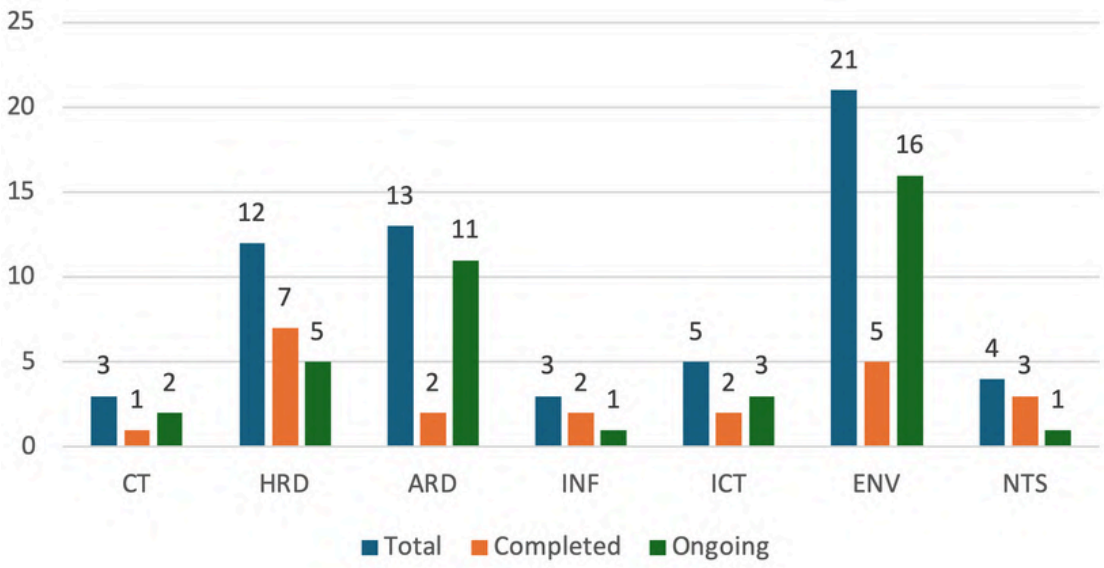
Fund Volume

Since 2014, a total of USD 32,657,765 has been contributed by the ROK to the MKCF to support collaborative development efforts in the Mekong region.

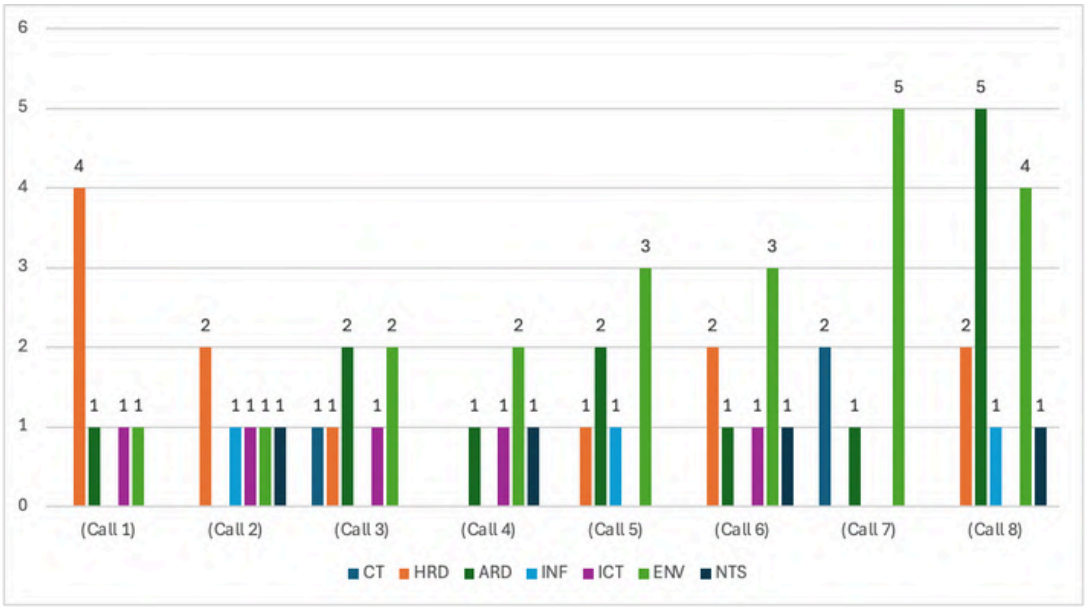


As of now, a total of 61 projects have been supported under the Mekong–ROK Cooperation Fund (MKCF), of which 22 have been completed and 39 are currently ongoing.

Number of Projects by Sector



Number of Projects by Call and Sector



COMPLETED PROJECTS

SUSTAINABLE AND SMART TOURISM DEVELOPMENT IN THE MEKONG REGION

MKCF CALL 3

Priority Sector: Culture and Tourism

Duration:

2020/05/01 - 2023/05/01

Project Description

Tourism benefits the poor through employment opportunities. Tourism offers labour-intensive and small-scale opportunities compared with other non-agricultural activities, employing semi-skilled and casual workers, small and medium-sized enterprises, a high proportion of women, and providing an opportunity for self-employment. Tourism also provides opportunities in remote areas and in places with a high value on natural resources and culture, all of which tend to favor the poor. Local young leaders raised in poor living environments have been given little access to education and opportunities to engage in business.

Countries in the Mekong region are working together to promote the subregion as a single destination for international visitors and encourage communities to enhance the environmental, social, and economic benefits of tourism.

Objectives

- **Short-term:** Enhance the capacities of tourism-related organizations representing the government, the private sector, and academe in the promotion and practice of sustainable tourism
- **Long-term:** Widespread application by Mekong countries of smart tourism and the "sharing economy" concept to maximize the potentials of human capital and enhance innovation and the efficient use of endogenous cultural and natural resources

Country of Implementation

Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, Viet Nam, and Republic of Korea

Activities/Components

- Training and guidance of the Mekong River Hotel in South Korea. The goal is to enhance the quality of tourism services. This is achieved by developing training courses, holding roadshows to recruit trainees, and providing electronic guidance materials.
- Pairing of historical and cultural towns, aiming to promote regional cooperation. Through conducting scoping studies, organizing learning visits, signing cooperation memorandums and holding investment forums, it promotes the exchange of sustainable tourism solutions and public-private cooperation.
- Support the development of smart tourism along the Mekong River, focusing on technological application, and promote the application of ICT technology in tourism by developing online and offline platforms, providing relevant training and holding workshops.
- By forming working groups, conducting baseline studies, mid-term and final evaluations, this component ensures that the project proceeds as planned and assess its effects, and promote tourism development in the Mekong River region from multiple dimensions.

Results Achieved

- **Training & Mentoring Programs**: Two batches of the "Smart Sustainable Tourism and Business Outreach" training were conducted (2021), engaging 94 participants from Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, Viet Nam. The curriculum focused on digital marketing, sustainable tourism governance, and smart technology applications, equipping young leaders with skills to manage inbound tourism. Post-training surveys showed a 3.85% improvement in knowledge scores, with 94.2% of participants satisfied with the e-mentoring program (2022), which provided one-on-one guidance on business planning and market penetration.
- **Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs)**: Three non-binding MOUs were signed between Korean cities (Seoul, Jeonju) and Mekong heritage sites (Luang Prabang, Siem Reap, Ayutthaya), formalizing partnerships for knowledge exchange, heritage conservation, and joint tourism marketing. For example, Jeonju University partnered with Ayutthaya Tourism College to develop curricula and internships, promoting cross-cultural learning.
- **Digital Platform Development**: The "Mekong Heritage" mobile app and web platform (launched 2023) provide real-time tourism data, booking services, and cultural content for five UNESCO sites, with 1,504 website visitors and active social media engagement (52+ stories on Facebook/Instagram). The platform integrates IoT and virtual reality to enhance visitor experiences and support local SMEs.

Future Strategies and Plans

- **Sustain Partnerships**: Strengthen MOUs for long-term knowledge exchange and joint projects, ensuring the involvement of the private sector and academic involvement.
- **Digital Platform Maintenance**: Continue updating "Mekong Heritage" tools and integrating user feedback to sustain tech-driven tourism services.
- **Policy Advocacy**: Promote project insights in regional policies to mainstream smart and sustainable practices, aligning with ASEAN frameworks.
- **Expand Investment Networks**: Leverage existing forums to attract funding for heritage infrastructure and green tourism projects, ensuring scalability.

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Keywords

#SUSTAINABLE TOURISM
#SMART TOURISM
#MEKONG HERITAGE
#GREEN TOURISM

CAPACITY BUILDING PROJECT ON DEVELOPMENT OF STATISTICS

MKCF CALL 1

Priority Sector: Human Resource Development

Duration

2017/01/01 - 2023/03/01

Project Description

Myanmar's statistical system was highly fragmented, with no unified coordination across ministries and commissions. The absence of professional agreements and standardized procedures had left statistical activities marginalized within government operations. To address these challenges, the Central Statistical Organization (CSO) led efforts to reform the system through the implementation of the National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS).

Through 12 targeted statistical development trainings, the project aimed to build technical capacity to support the NSDS. Its objectives were fourfold: first, to establish an integrated system for statistical production, analysis, and dissemination; second, to enhance staff capabilities through systematic training in modern statistical methods, from data collection to data compilation; third, to develop sufficient infrastructure to support statistical advancement; and fourth, to implement a human resource development program leveraging modern IT-based data storage solutions.

Objectives

- **Integrated statistical system**: To implement a successful integrated system for statistical production, analysis, and dissemination through the National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS).
- **Staff capacity development**: To enhance the capacity of staff through a systematic training program in modern statistical practices, from data capture to data compilation.
- **Infrastructure development:** To develop sufficient infrastructure for carrying out capacity building in statistical development in Myanmar.
- **Human resource development**: To implement a human resource development program with the support of modern IT-based data storage.

Country of Implementation

Myanmar

Activities/Components

- Conducted 12 training sessions and seminars on statistical development.
- Released a progress report on the Sustainable Development Goals.
- Promoted systematic training, stakeholder consultations, and the use of IT tools to build statistical capacity, develop SDG indicators, and strengthen the national statistical systems.

Results Achieved

- During the one-year extension period, significant progress was made with the publication of the SDG Progress Report 2022, covering 175 out of 247 indicators. This report is now used to monitor the implementation of national development plans. The selected indicators align with the basic principles of official statistics and strengthen the supervisory and guiding functions of the National Statistical System.
- Additionally, the Central Statistical Organization (CSO) conducted 12 statistical capacity development training programs on topics including price data processing, life statistics analysis, applied statistics and survey methods, fundamentals of statistics, data visualization, statistical methods for rice production, database system construction, and project proposal writing. Covering the full process from data collection to price reporting, key survey concepts, and the use of advanced software, these trainings enhanced professional skills in the field. A total of 380 staff members (including 34 from the Central Bureau of Statistics and 76 from other statistical agencies) benefited from these programs.
- Through systematic training, a professional, well-trained, and dedicated team of statisticians has been gradually established, providing a strong human resource foundation for the reform of the national statistical system.

Successful Factors/Strategies

- The project was strongly supported by the MKCF, with the approved budget efficiently utilized in accordance with the Mekong Financial Standards and Myanmar's financial regulations, ensuring effective project implementation.
- A series of well-structured training programs were designed and delivered, covering a wide range of statistical areas from basic concepts to advanced data visualization and database management.
- Alignment of project activities with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) provided clear direction, strengthened focus, and enhanced overall project impact.

Future Strategies and Plans

- To address challenges caused by changes in key personnel during the project cycle, future efforts should focus on maintaining the stability of the project management team to ensure continuity, minimize disruptions, and enhance the efficiency of project execution.
- Efforts should be intensified to cultivate and establish a database of local training instructors, reducing reliance on external trainers and better meeting ongoing training needs under the current circumstances in Myanmar.

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Keywords

#STATISTICS DEVELOPMENT
#CAPACITY BUILDING
#SDG
#STATISTICAL TRAINING




BUILDING UP A TRIPARTITE MODEL AMONG ACADEMIES – INDUSTRIES – GOVERNMENT FOR SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AND ACCELERATION OF THE INDUSTRIALIZATION IN VIET NAM

MKCF CALL 1

Priority Sector: Human Resource Development

Duration

2016/10/01 - 2017/09/30

Project Description

With the acceleration of industrialization in Viet Nam, a need for high value-added and high-tech industrial support, especially at the technical personnel and engineer levels, emerged. Viet Namese enterprises generally faced the problem of difficulty in recruiting skilled workers and engineers with matching skills. Although the government provided employment trends, it was difficult to offer specific data at the industry, position, and regional levels. Training institutions also lacked the ability to obtain and analyze the necessary data.

Therefore, the project aimed to build an effective model of social partnership among training, enterprise, and government sectors for skills development and the acceleration of industrialization in Viet Nam. This initiative specifically included three main intervention areas: a Training Process Management System, an Employment Support System, and a Skills Evaluation System.

Objectives

- To build up an effective model of tripartite partnership among MOIT's training schools, enterprises, and the government in order to accelerate graduates' skills development for supporting the next stage of Viet Nam's industrialization.
- To expand the training program process management by enhancing interaction between MOIT's schools and industry, together with promoting dynamic training program development.
- To reform the employment support system by providing sufficient and accurate job opportunity information for students and improving internship program quality.
- To improve the skill evaluation system by sustainably expanding skill tests and enhancing their credibility.

Country of Implementation

Viet Nam

Activities/Components

- "Training–Employment–Assessment" model
- PDCA-based training process management system
- Enterprise-linked course development
- Employment support system (internships, counseling, job matching)
- Industry-aligned skills assessment and certification

Results Achieved

- The project effectively promoted the alignment of the education and training system with industrial demands, laying a solid foundation for the sustainable development of skilled human resources in Viet Nam.
- A pilot tripartite cooperation platform (AIG model) was successfully established in three MOIT affiliated institutions, achieving an initial collaboration mechanism among education, enterprises, and the government. Through the platform's operation, colleges and universities began to jointly conduct research on skills demands with local enterprises, providing a basis for curriculum reform.
- The project promoted the pilot implementation of the training process management system. MOIT institutions introduced the PDCA process and completed the reconstruction and optimization of multiple professional courses. Some institutions incorporated enterprise feedback into course design and established a course quality assessment mechanism.
- In terms of the employment support system, the project organized activities such as enterprise visits, internship improvements, and employment guidance lectures, which enhanced students' understanding of industry demands and their job-hunting capabilities.
- A framework for a skills assessment system was initially established, and skill testing standards were piloted in mechanical and electronic majors. Some of the tests were recognized by enterprises, enhancing the competitiveness of graduates in the market.

Successful Factors/Strategies

- Effective coordination and communication among educational institutions, industry enterprises, and the government were core to the project's success. All parties jointly participated in course design, internship arrangement, and skills testing to enhance project effectiveness and operability.
- Training content was adjusted based on industry research and enterprise feedback to achieve a precise match between educational content and employment demands.
- Through activities such as internships, enterprise visits, and career counseling, students' career awareness was enhanced, and smooth employment was promoted.

Future Strategies and Plans

- Incorporate the pilot experience into MOIT's systematic policies, such as talent cultivation norms, curriculum standards, and skills testing systems, and promote their nationwide implementation.
- Regularize the tripartite cooperation platform with ongoing activities such as enterprise symposiums, industry research, and course reviews to form a long-term interactive mechanism.
- Extend the existing AIG model to more MOIT colleges and professional fields, especially in key technical areas such as electronics, mechanics, and automation.
- Strengthen the practical industry experience and assessment skills of teachers and administrators to ensure the continuous improvement of course and teaching quality.
- Establish a project outcome tracking and evaluation mechanism and dynamically adjust the implementation strategy based on indicators such as the graduate employment rate and feedback from enterprises.

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Keywords

#SKILLS DEVELOPMENT
#INDUSTRIALIZATION VIET NAM
#WORKFORCE READY
#PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP
#TVET INNOVATION

STRENGTHENING OF BORDER LIAISON OFFICE (BLO) AROUND THE MEKONG RIVER

MKCF CALL 1

Priority Sector: Human Resources Development

Duration

2016/08/09 - 2017/03/17

Project Description

The Mekong River Basin was a major hub for drug trafficking in Southeast Asia. Although opium production had declined due to international crackdowns and alternative crop policies, the drug problem persisted with the rise of synthetic drugs, which were easier to manufacture. Along the river, 70 Border Liaison Offices (BLOs), staffed by police, soldiers, and border guards, addressed transnational crimes such as narcotics smuggling and human trafficking. However, their efforts were hindered by limited expertise, inadequate equipment, and weak coordination among BLOs.

To strengthen regional cooperation against transnational crimes, particularly drug trafficking, the "Strengthening of Border Liaison Office (BLO) Around the Mekong River" project was implemented across five Mekong countries. It focused on human resource development through training, equipment support, and workshops at key border locations. These efforts improved BLO capacity, reduced crime rates, and bolstered Mekong-ROK collaboration.

Objectives

- To enable Mekong countries to achieve balanced development.
- To suppress transnational crimes in the Mekong region.
- To improve job training for BLO staff.
- To upgrade old equipment for better drug control.
- To promote cooperation among BLOs.

Country of Implementation

Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Viet Nam, Thailand

BLOs:

- **Northern**: Kyaing Lath, Xiang Kok, Chiang Saen, Ton Phueng
- **Central**: Nongkhai, Vientiane
- **Southern**: Bavet, Moc Bai

Activities/Components

Pre-Project Workshop
Prepare for workshops.
Coordinate implementation strategies.
Objective: Ensure effective cross-border cooperation.

Northern Region Support
Enhance staff skills.
Localized training.
Expert-led knowledge sharing.
Objective: Enhance staff capacity in border control.

Central Region Support
Enhance capabilities.
Lectures and equipment support.
Objective: Strengthen operational capabilities through training and equipment provision.

Invitational Training in Korea
Conduct on-site investigations.
Objective: Facilitate hands-on learning through field investigations.

Southern Region Support
Hold training activities.
Share knowledge.
Objective: Promote knowledge exchange through regional training activities.

Results Achieved

- Strengthened BLO capacity in 5 countries (Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, Viet Nam).
- Training, equipment, international cooperation.
- 3 local training programs (northern, central, southern Mekong).
- Promoted cross-border collaboration.
- 90 BLO officers trained (border control techniques).
- UNODC expert support.
- Equipment provided: motorcycles, radios, searchlights, speed boats.
- Invitational training in Korea: BLO staff visited law enforcement agencies.
- Insights into advanced investigative and interdiction strategies.
- Improved BLO operational capabilities.
- Fostered mutual trust.
- Reduction in transnational crimes (drug trafficking).
- Supported regional economic development and public safety.

Successful Factors/Strategies

- Regional Cooperation: Involved 5 Mekong countries and key organizations.
- Ensured shared ownership and commitment.
- Targeted Capacity Building: Local and invitational training; Tailored to regional needs; Enhanced practical skills; Knowledge Transfer.
- Exposure to Korean law enforcement practices.
- Introduced modern techniques.
- Fostered long-term learning.
- Strong Project Coordination: On-site management by a dedicated implementer; Ensured smooth execution.

Future Strategies and Plans

- More project outputs (e.g., pre-workshop).
- Strengthening of the BLO network.
- Develop a close network among Mekong River BLO officers.
- Conduct local workshop (3 times).
- Identify the need for an additional project to further strengthen BLOs.
- Address the rise in transnational crimes associated with economic growth.

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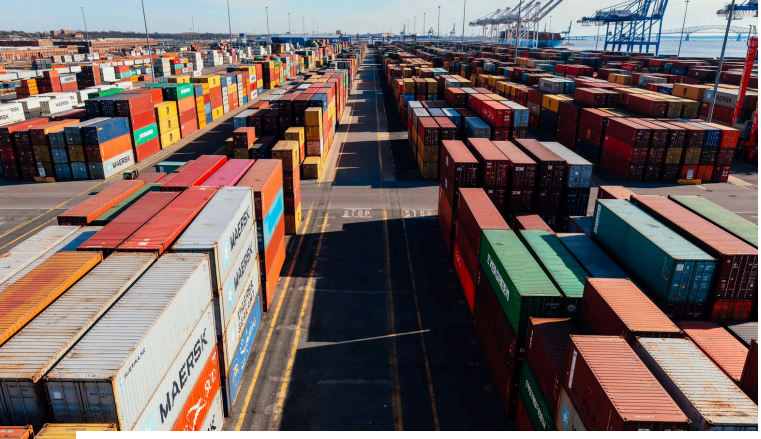
Keywords

#BORDER LIAISON OFFICE (BLO)
#REGIONAL SECURITY
#TRANSNATIONAL CRIME PREVENTION




CERTIFIED LOGISTICS MASTER PROJECT

MKCF CALL 1
Priority Sector: Human Resource Development

Duration:
2016/10/01 - 2017/12/31

Project Description

The logistics sector in the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) faces a critical shortage of skilled professionals across all levels—from operational staff to strategic decision-makers. This skills gap results in lower service quality, limited service offerings, and weak global connectivity among local logistics service providers (LSPs), especially smaller firms. While some larger companies have established international networks, most LSPs struggle to remain competitive even within their domestic markets. The implementation of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC), which promotes the free flow of goods, services, and skilled labor, adds further pressure on local providers to enhance their capabilities and meet rising market expectations.

In response, this project seeks to improve cross-border and trans-shipment logistics services by focusing on capacity development and accreditation for local LSPs. By equipping these providers with enhanced skills and internationally recognized certifications, the initiative aims to reduce logistics costs, improve service quality and delivery efficiency along GMS economic corridors, and enable greater integration of local providers into regional and global logistics chains.

Objectives

- To improve cross-border and trans-shipment logistics services through capacity development and accreditation of SME logistics service providers in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, and Viet Nam.
- To decrease cross-border logistics costs, improve the quality and timeliness of services provided by local logistics providers, and integrate them into the sub-regional, regional, and global logistics chains.

Country of Implementation

Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, and Viet Nam

Activities/Components

- Evaluated the impact of the three-year project in CLMVT by conducting training and producing a training curriculum.
- Conducted a 15-day field investigation, visiting stakeholders in CLMVT countries (including GMS FRETA, CLM students, CLM ToT students, logistics/freight associations, transportation departments, business owners) to collect information.
- Conducted research on the design of the GMS logistics database and developed questionnaires for business owners.

Results Achieved

- Formation of a Technical Working Group
- Curriculum development
- GMS Logistics Database
- Three-weeks training for 90 local logistics service providers representing the private and public sectors from CLMTV
- Two structured learning visits to Nong Khai border with Lao PDR and Khon Kaen to obtain information and interact with customs officials

Successful Factors/Strategies

- Phased training design involved modularized and dynamically optimized courses incorporating practical modules to meet industry demands.
- Stakeholder Collaboration with GMS FRETA, national logistics associations, government departments, and enterprises ensured demand matching through on-site investigations and questionnaire surveys.
- Integration of international and local expertise saw Korean experts and local industry leaders jointly develop courses and translate materials into five languages.
- Field and case teaching included visits to customs and logistics enterprises and combined practical operation cases to strengthen applied skills.

Future Strategies and Plans

1. Entering enterprises and regional collaboration:
   - Support small and medium-sized enterprises by promoting cost control tools (5S and FIFO) through national workshops.
   - Expand cross-border networks by leveraging the CLM alumni network to promote enterprise pairing and business subcontracting.
2. Policy and Resource Integration:
   - Strive for government resources to incorporate logistics training into national skills development plans.
   - Seek continuous financial and technical support through funds like MKCF and introduce ICT tools (GPS tracking and blockchain customs clearance).

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Keywords

#CERTIFIED LOGISTICS MASTER
#TRAINING OF TRAINERS
#GMS LOGISTICS DATABASE
#CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

PROMOTING SAFE MIGRATION FOR TEMPORARY MIGRANTS TO THAILAND

MKCF CALL 2

Priority Sector: Human Resource Development

Duration:

2018/01/01 - 2019/12/31

Project Description

A significant number of temporary migrants from Myanmar, Cambodia, and Lao PDR have formed an "informal migration" pattern due to a lack of legal documents or work permits, exposing them to high risks of human trafficking, fraud, and exploitation. This situation not only severely threatens the basic rights and interests of these migrants but also hinders the Thai government's ability to provide social security and basic rights protection through conventional measures, increasing the strain on social governance.

To address the problems arising from informal migration, measures such as legalizing identity, standardizing procedures, and institutionalizing rights protection are necessary. The project aims to promote the healthy and orderly development of the labor market and contribute to the sustainable growth of the Thai economy through these interventions.

Objectives

- To support the implementation of the MOU and emerging agreements/initiatives between Thailand and its three neighboring countries (Cambodia, Myanmar, and Lao PDR) for regularizing and promoting safe migration between the sending and receiving countries.
- To align with the Government of Thailand's policy objective of regularizing all migration to Thailand by 2022.
- To support regional efforts to ensure safe and legal migration from Cambodia, Lao PDR, and Myanmar.
- To align with the MKCF priority of facilitating greater regional integration.

Country of Implementation

Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Thailand

Activities/Components

- Continuously improved the registration system and MOU details based on existing immigration management policies in Thailand to ensure effective policy implementation and adaptive adjustment.
- Strengthened multi-party cooperation among Thai government departments, governments of sending countries, employers, and migrant workers' organizations to form synergies in management and jointly promote project implementation.
- Established a database containing migrant worker information, collected and analyzed data (such as registration status, employment costs, and rights protection), and provided a basis for policy adjustment and activity optimization.

Results Achieved

- A large number of migrant workers in "informal migration" acquired legal status with passports or identity documents, Thai visas, and work permits, leading to formal protection under the Thai legal system and significantly reducing the risks of trafficking, fraud, or exploitation.
- Employment costs for migrant workers were successfully reduced through administrative fee reductions, cost-sharing plans, and government subsidies. Health insurance coverage was increased to 80%, providing basic medical security and reducing economic pressure. Rights awareness was significantly enhanced through educational activities, enabling workers to better safeguard their rights, which increased job satisfaction and stability.
- The structure of Thailand's labor market was optimized, resulting in a more stable and orderly supply of low-skilled labor.
- Thailand's cooperation with GMS countries (Myanmar, Lao PDR, and Cambodia) in labor migration management was strengthened and stabilized.
- A reporting mechanism was established, and joint efforts with law enforcement in Thailand and sending countries led to an improved employment environment for immigrants.

Successful Factors/Strategies

- Multi-dimensional policy coordination combined the registration system with bilateral MOUs to promote the legalization of migrant workers from different perspectives.
- Multi-stakeholder collaboration involved close cooperation among Thai government departments, governments of sending countries, employers, and migrant workers' organizations during project implementation.
- Data-driven and targeted measures involved establishing a database of migrant workers and precisely formulating and adjusting policies based on collected and analyzed data.

Future Strategies and Plans

- Continuously optimize policies, simplify registration procedures, and adjust fee terms.
- Strengthen supervision and feedback by enhancing employment inspections and establishing feedback channels.
- Deepen cross-border cooperation and regional linkage by expanding the scope of cooperation and unifying management standards.
- Establish a long-term publicity and education mechanism, conduct activities for rights protection, and enhance migrant workers' awareness to safeguard their rights.

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Keywords

#THAI MIGRANT WORKERS
#NATIONALITY VERIFICATION PROCESS
#THAI LABOR MARKET
#MIGRANT WORKER WELFARE MONITORING

GREEN FREIGHT AND LOGISTICS DEVELOPMENT IN MEKONG COUNTRIES

MKCF CALL 2
Priority Sector: Human Resource Development

Duration:
2018/03/05 - 2021/03/05

Project Description

The Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) has experienced significant growth in population, trade, and infrastructure, with over US$21 billion invested in connectivity as of 2017. This has driven intra-GMS trade to US$951 billion, yet logistics costs remain high—between 17–25% of GDP—compared to OECD benchmarks. Road transport, the primary mode of freight movement, has fueled logistics expansion but has also contributed to rising greenhouse gas emissions, accounting for 20% of energy-related emissions in the region.

Despite notable progress, the sector continues to face challenges in fuel efficiency, competitiveness, and environmental sustainability. To address these issues, there is a growing demand for advanced logistics solutions and smarter supply chain management. These efforts align with the GMS Transport Sector Strategy 2030, which envisions a seamless, efficient, and low-carbon transport system supporting sustainable regional development.

Objectives

- To introduce 'Green Mark' standards in logistics service operations by building the capacity of national agencies in the government and private sector.
- To design, develop, and field-test a curriculum on green freight and logistics development.
- To build the capacity of Logistics Service Providers (LSPs) on green freight and logistics to comply with the 'Green Mark' certification.
- To create a database on green technologies in logistics for LSPs to access information via a networking platform.
- To provide a regional platform for government agencies and the private sector involved in logistics development for collective action to promote green logistics in the Mekong countries.

Country of Implementation

Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, and Viet Nam

Activities/Components

- The project components included baseline research, curriculum development, green standard setting, software research and development, training, policy consultation, and monitoring and evaluation.
- The project adopted a three-stage modular training approach ("learning by doing, doing by learning, and learning by sharing") and collaborated with governments and logistics associations of various countries.
- The overall aim was to improve the quality of logistics services, reduce carbon emissions, and enhance capabilities.

Results Achieved

- Capacity Building of Stakeholders
- Development of National Action Plans
- Setting Green Service Quality Standards
- Improved Understanding of Green Freight and Logistics (GFL) Practices
- Developed an E-Database on Green Logistics Technologies
- Peer Learning and Experience Sharing

Successful Factors/Strategies

- Through core group meetings and national workshops, the government was encouraged to incorporate green labels into industry planning, thus enhancing enterprise participation.
- A three-stage modular training approach ("learning–doing–sharing") combined theory with practical operations, forming a collaborative network of policymakers and front-line executors.

Future Strategies and Plans

- Establish a regional student network (email groups and online platforms) to promote long-term knowledge sharing among enterprises.
- Encourage governments to incorporate Green Logistics Service Quality Standards (GLSQS) into their legal certification systems and facilitate mutual recognition of policies among the five countries.
- Establish a dynamic feedback mechanism to respond promptly to technological updates through enterprise questionnaires and quarterly reports from associations.

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Keywords

#EMISSION REDUCTION
#SUSTAINABILITY
#E-DATABASE ON GREEN TECHNOLOGIES
#CAPACITY BUILDING

CAPACITY BUILDING AND INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING FOR LOGISTICS MONITORING AND EVALUATION DATABASE DEVELOPMENT IN CAMBODIA, LAO PDR AND VIET NAM

MKCF CALL 3
Priority Sector: Human Resource Development

Duration:

2020/06/01 - 2024/01/31

Project Description

Cambodia's socio-economic landscape underwent significant transformation, shifting from an agriculture-based economy to one focused on industry and services, leading to rapidly increasing trade and transport volumes. To support sustainable and inclusive high economic growth, the Royal Government of Cambodia formulated the Cambodian Industrial Development Policy 2015-2025 (IDP), which highlighted the need for a logistics master plan to create an efficient and competitive platform for trade facilitation.

However, the Ministry of Public Works and Transport (MPWT) faced challenges including a lack of skilled human resources for logistics management, insufficient database systems, a lack of monitoring and evaluation mechanisms, and limited financial and technical support for formulating a logistics database system.

Objectives

- To enhance the capacity of government officials in developing logistics M&E frameworks and databases for effective tracking of logistics activities in the Mekong region, with a focus on Cambodia, Lao PDR, and Viet Nam (CLV countries).
- To develop a standardized logistics M&E guide to support logistics development in the Mekong region.
- To establish a central logistics database system for the Mekong region to ensure sustainable logistics development and support policymaking through reliable data.

Country of Implementation

Cambodia, Lao PDR, and Viet Nam

Activities/Components

- To enhance the data collection, management, and evaluation capabilities of both the public and private sectors in logistics, and to strengthen regional integration and cooperation, the professional capabilities of government officials and relevant personnel will be gradually improved through training and technical support.
- A multilateral cooperation platform will be established, and the process will progress in phases and in a planned manner—from the national to the regional level, and from framework development to database construction.

Results Achieved

- The development of the Logistics Statistics Management and Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) training module was completed, and multiple domestic and international training and technical exchange activities were successfully organized, significantly enhancing the data analysis and management capabilities of relevant government officials and private sector personnel.
- The M&E framework for logistics in Cambodia was initially formulated, and the framework for the CLV region entered the stage of soliciting opinions and revision, laying the foundation for a unified regional policy. The design and beta version of the CLV logistics database system and the Cambodian geographic database were developed, with data import and platform optimization currently in progress.
- Two key case studies—the "Baseline Study on Logistics Development in Cambodia" and the "Follow-up Monitoring and Evaluation Report"—completed their initial drafts and were reviewed at a technical meeting, providing an important basis for policy making. The project also promoted the establishment of a data-sharing mechanism among the three CLV countries and was drafting the MoU text to formalize the regional data collaboration framework.

Successful Factors/Strategies

- Clear problem orientation and demand matching were central to the project design, precisely focusing on the bottlenecks faced by Cambodia and the CLV countries in logistics development—such as data scarcity, insufficient capacity, and mechanism deficiencies—ensuring the project's urgency and policy relevance.
- By establishing a monitoring and evaluation framework and a database system, an institutional basis was provided for long-term sustainable management.
- Emphasizing regional cooperation and experience sharing through technical exchanges, visits to third countries, and working groups involving the three CLV countries strengthened coordination and mutual trust, enhancing the regional applicability and replicability of project achievements.

Future Strategies and Plans

- The project outcomes will be incorporated into the long-term working mechanism of the General Directorate of Logistics (GDL), a permanent institution under the Ministry of Public Works and Transport (MPWT) of Cambodia, to ensure the continuous update and utilization of the database and M&E system.
- The project plans to regularly support data collection and system maintenance through the national fiscal budget and transform training efforts into a "trainer" model to form a localized talent pool. Regionally, efforts will be made to promote the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on long-term data sharing and cooperation among the three CLV countries and to strengthen the cross-border coordination mechanism.
- Regularly releasing logistics and transportation briefs and continuously disclosing logistics development data and trends to the public will enhance policy transparency and public participation.

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Keywords

#INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING
#SUSTAINABLE AND RELIABLE LOGISTICS
#MEKONG ROK COOPERATION
#CAPACITY BUILDING

COMPREHENSIVE TRAINING TO INCREASE EFFICIENCY OF RICE PRODUCTION IN THE MEKONG SUBREGION

MKCF CALL 1
Priority Sector: Agriculture and Rural Development

Duration:
2017/02/06 - 2017/03/18

Project Description

At the 36th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting, the vision for building a competitive, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable food, agriculture, and forestry sector integrated with the global economy within the ASEAN single market was confirmed. The Mekong River region, a major global rice producer, faced stagnant production efficiency, high costs, and significant impacts from climate change. These challenges have hindered agricultural development, poverty reduction, regional food security, and economic prosperity.
Recognizing the importance of regional cooperation, Thailand, a leading global rice exporter, believed that increasing rice production would significantly boost the agricultural economy in the Mekong River region. By sharing its expertise in rice production, Thailand aimed to further the common goal of enhanced rice output among the Mekong River Cooperation countries.

Objectives

- To develop a cooperation network on efficient rice production and rice production planning between the Mekong countries and the Republic of Korea (ROK).
- To achieve sustainable and resilient agriculture in the Mekong region and improve rural livelihoods and poverty alleviation through the dissemination of project outputs.
- To build capacity in the systematic use of geospatial technology and products to minimize the harmful side effects of development.

Country of Implementation

Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, and Viet Nam

Activities/Components

- Designed and delivered three structured training modules.
- Conducted an on-site study visit to South Korea for hands-on learning.
- Provided theoretical and practical training to enhance technical skills in rice production.
- Promoted cost reduction strategies and quality improvement techniques.
- Encouraged the adoption of green productivity practices.
- Supported the establishment of an agricultural cooperation network between Mekong countries and South Korea for sustainable development and poverty reduction.

Results Achieved

- The professional knowledge and practical abilities of 17 agricultural personnel from CLMVT countries were enhanced through systematic training, showing significant improvement in knowledge across Efficient Planting, Green Processing, and Remote Sensing Monitoring modules.
- Awareness of green rice processing was cultivated, promoting energy-saving and environmental protection technologies; trainees mastered concepts of waste reuse, energy saving, and green productivity.
- Initial application capacity of remote sensing and GIS in rice cultivation monitoring was established, with some countries (Thailand and Lao PDR) beginning to use remote sensing data for flood monitoring and planting area planning.
- The regional cooperation network was initially established through collaborative group activities among trainees.
- The response capabilities of participating countries in sustainable agriculture and food security were enhanced.

Successful Factors/Strategies

- Modular and practice-oriented training design divided the program into three core modules (planting, processing, and monitoring) and an on-site investigation. A hybrid model of lectures, practical operations, case analyses, and on-site visits significantly enhanced learning outcomes and participation.
- The combination of theory with on-site experience and practical application helped participants understand and master advanced technologies, proving particularly suitable for those without field experience.
- Cross-border cooperation and experience sharing were promoted through group learning and presentation of country reports, facilitating the exchange of experiences and comparison of challenges. The Korean experience introduced during the on-site investigation stimulated participants' interest in innovation and potential cooperation.

Future Strategies and Plans

- Address challenges related to varied participant backgrounds and knowledge levels, as well as the high technical thresholds that require extended training and ongoing reinforcement.
- Establish a long-term mechanism for agricultural remote sensing monitoring and develop more professional and technical talent in the field.
- Encourage trainees to disseminate the knowledge gained in their home countries through re-training sessions, lectures, and demonstration projects to expand the project's influence.
- Urge the governments of participating countries to incorporate project outcomes into their national agricultural development plans, allocate necessary financial resources, and ensure continuous follow-up on project implementation.

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Keywords

#MEKONG RICE COOPERATION
#SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE
#CLIMATE RESILIENT FARMING
#GEOSPATIAL FOR AGRICULTURE
#REGIONAL FOOD SECURITY

SUSTAINABLE AND SMART AGRICULTURAL SUPPLY CHAIN DEVELOPMENT IN MEKONG COUNTRIES

MKCF CALL 5

Priority Sector: Agriculture and Rural Development

Duration:

2021/12/22 - 2023/05/31

Project Description

The COVID-19 pandemic has intensified the impacts of climate change on food production and exposed major gaps in access to smart technologies between smallholder producers, MSMEs, and large enterprises in the Mekong region. These disparities, combined with issues like low productivity, postharvest losses, and poor logistics, have placed additional pressure on vulnerable agricultural groups.

This project aims to transform agricultural supply chains—spanning production, processing, and distribution—through the adoption of smart farming practices, renewable energy, and efficient logistics technologies. By doing so, it supports the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy), and SDG 13 (Climate Action), contributing to inclusive growth, resilient societies, and sustainable natural resource management across the Mekong countries.

Objectives

- To identify mechanisms for improving productivity and quality of agricultural produce.
- To increase energy efficiency through using smart and sustainable technologies in the agricultural supply chain.
- To enhance agricultural supply chains by improving logistics systems including cold chain management practices for agricultural products in the Mekong region.

Country of Implementation

Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, and Viet Nam

Activities/Components

- **Component A**: Sustainable and Smart Technologies for Agricultural Production Supply Chains
- **Component B**: Enhancing Energy Efficiency in Agricultural Supply Chains
- **Component C**: Smart Logistics Management for Agricultural Supply Chains
- **Component D**: Project Monitoring and Evaluation

Results Achieved

- Assessment of the Mekong countries' capacity needs and identification of smart technologies by category and sector, including the potential for technological adoption.
- Design and delivery of four capacity development programs, and promotion of smart technologies in the agriculture, energy, logistics and transportation sectors.
- Increased awareness, skills, and knowledge of smart farming, renewable energy, and logistics technologies.

Successful Factors/Strategies

- Enhanced stakeholder knowledge and skills through diverse training programs on sustainable and smart agriculture, as well as renewable energy.
- Conducted a comprehensive assessment of intelligent, energy, and logistics technologies, providing a clearer understanding of agricultural supply chains in the Mekong region.
- Established clear long-term and short-term goals, along with a detailed implementation plan, which improved project execution efficiency.

Future Strategies and Plans

- Mekong governments should refer to project policy briefs and national assessments to accelerate agricultural digitalization. Government policy support should create a favorable environment for the continued application of intelligent technologies in agricultural supply chains, ensuring long-term sustainability.
- Encourage private sector investment in smart agriculture and promote the modernization of agricultural supply chains.
- Strengthen academic cooperation by incorporating project training materials into academic curricula, cultivating professional talent, and building a reserve of skilled personnel and technical expertise to support the long-term sustainability of project outcomes.

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Keywords

#SUSTAINABLE TECHNOLOGIES
#AGRICULTURAL SUPPLY CHAINS
#CLMTV
#CAPACITY BUILDING


CAPACITY ENHANCEMENT ON WIND ENERGY USAGE FOR SUSTAINABLE RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN MYANMAR

MKCF CALL 2

Priority Sector: Infrastructure

Duration

2018/03/14 - 2024/02/29

Project Description

As of May 2015, Myanmar's electricity infrastructure met only half of the national demand, leaving around 70% of the largely rural population without access to the national grid. This energy gap has contributed to significantly lower living standards in rural areas compared to urban centers.

Energy supply and efficiency challenges are common across the CLMV countries. This project promotes regional collaboration by developing adaptable training materials and program designs that can be applied in future academic or development initiatives, thereby supporting knowledge sharing and improved energy access across the Mekong region.

Objectives

- To develop a curriculum and training materials, including two sets of micro-scale horizontal axis wind turbines, measuring instruments, and training aids such as computer programs for wind turbine design, and to conduct research on wind energy and its implementation technologies suitable for Myanmar's context.
- To provide training for approximately 40 government officials from relevant departments, as well as private sector participants working in wind energy-related fields in Myanmar, utilizing the research outputs from the first objective.
- To facilitate academic and technological exchange between Yangon Technological University and Ho Chi Minh City University of Technology, under the supervision of a partner university from the Republic of Korea (ROK).
- To share common issues, challenges, and lessons learned in the promotion of wind energy, and to identify potential regional collaboration strategies for the broader application of wind energy in rural electrification and green growth.

Country of Implementation

Myanmar

Activities/Components

- Capacity Building for Energy Personnel: Conducted training sessions at Yangon Technological University (YTU) in collaboration with Ho Chi Minh City University of Technology (HCMUT), Viet Nam, and a partner university from the Republic of Korea (ROK).
- Curriculum Development on Wind Energy: Conducted literature reviews and field research to support curriculum design.
- Laboratory-Scale Wind Turbines: Carried out experimental testing and incorporated results into practical training modules.
- Regional Collaboration and Knowledge Sharing: Facilitated the exchange of findings and experiences between Myanmar and Viet Nam to promote regional learning.

Results Achieved

- The project promoted the establishment of a cooperative network among academia, industry, government, and non-governmental organizations in the field of wind energy.
- The capabilities and knowledge of key personnel in green growth-related technologies and practices were enhanced. A systematic wind energy training program—covering theory, design, assembly, and testing—was delivered to 40 energy-related professionals from both the public and private sectors, significantly strengthening their competencies in wind resource assessment, turbine design, and field application. This laid a strong human resource foundation for the local implementation of wind energy technologies.
- The project contributed to improving electricity accessibility in rural areas of Myanmar and supported the green development of its socio-economic infrastructure. By developing and testing two experimental horizontal-axis wind turbines and incorporating them into practical training exercises, the project provided empirical evidence to support future deployment of micro wind power systems in rural settings.
- The potential for expanded wind energy cooperation and project continuation in the Mekong River region was stimulated. During the midterm stage, common challenges faced by Myanmar and Viet Nam in promoting wind energy technologies were identified, laying the groundwork for future regional collaboration.

Successful Factors/Strategies

- The project fostered the development of a cooperation network among academia, industry, government, and non-governmental organizations in the field of wind energy.
- The capabilities and knowledge of key personnel in green growth-related technologies and practices were enhanced through systematic training in wind energy technology.
- The project supported improved electricity access in rural areas of Myanmar and contributed to the green development of its socio-economic system by developing and testing micro wind power systems.
- The potential for regional wind energy cooperation and project continuation in the Mekong River region was strengthened by identifying common challenges faced by Myanmar and Viet Nam.

Future Strategies and Plans

1. Enterprise Engagement and Regional Collaboration

- Support small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to enhance their participation in regional supply chains.
- Expand cross-border networks to promote collaboration and business opportunities across the Mekong region.

2. Policy and Resource Integration

- Mobilize government resources to support logistics and agricultural development initiatives.
- Seek continuous financial and technical assistance from development partners to ensure sustainability.

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Keywords

#RENEWABLE ENERGY
#ENERGY ACCESS
#WIND ENERGY
#GREEN GROWTH
#RURAL

CAPACITY BUILDING FOR ROAD MAINTENANCE METHODOLOGY TO PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURE IN CLV COUNTRIES

MKCF CALL 5

Priority Sector: Infrastructure

Duration:

2021/12/27 - 2024/03/31

Project Description

Cambodia relies heavily on its road network for transportation and distribution, making road infrastructure improvement critical to sustainable social and economic development. Roads provide access to essential services and connect the country regionally and globally. Although Cambodia has over 61,000 km of roads, the majority are rural, and only about 6,200 km are paved. Significant efforts in road construction, widening, and rehabilitation are ongoing. Early repair of road damage is essential to extending pavement lifespan. Therefore, improving road maintenance knowledge and skills among relevant officials and construction workers is key to ensuring the long-term durability and quality of road infrastructure.

Objectives

- To raise public awareness about the importance of road infrastructure maintenance through workshops and media outreach.
- To conduct and analyze a Training Needs Assessment (TNA) to inform project implementation.
- To develop and pilot a curriculum on road maintenance, along with Learning Management System (LMS) software.
- To deliver effective and efficient training courses on road maintenance for the target audience.
- To design a standardized monitoring mechanism and evaluation strategies to assess training impact.

Country of Implementation

Cambodia, Lao PDR and Viet Nam

Activities/Components

- Public Awareness: Raise awareness through workshops and promote it through media networks.
- TNA: Identify training needs and trainee backgrounds, perform gap analysis, assess alternatives, report results, and recommend training plans.
- Curriculum Development: Form a team, find consultants, define outcomes, develop syllabus and content, design activities, and develop LMS software.
- Training Implementation: Produce materials, pilot and revise the curriculum, recruit and train facilitators, and implement training (physical/virtual formats, including lectures, workshops, webinars, discussions, site visits, practicums, and assignments).
- Monitoring and Evaluation: Design M&E mechanisms and strategies for formative and summative assessment, and suggest procedures for collecting reliable and valid information and reporting.

Results Achieved

- The project established the CLV Logistics Database website for data, lessons learned, and knowledge sharing among CLV countries to support logistics sector development in each country and across the region. Furthermore, a Logistics M&E Framework and guidelines were published on the website, serving as crucial tools for improving logistics sector performance.
- The project facilitated and promoted regional cooperation and collaboration, particularly through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to be signed between the General Department of Logistics (GDL) under Cambodia's MPWT and the Transport Development and Strategy Institute (TDSI) under Viet Nam's MOT (pending Viet Nam's internal approval).
- To enhance public awareness, the importance of road maintenance was widely disseminated through project kick-off meetings, TNA consultation seminars, and media outreach, drawing strong public attention with the participation of numerous stakeholders.

Successful Factors/Strategies

- The project team flexibly adapted to the COVID-19 pandemic by adopting a hybrid online and offline training model to ensure the smooth implementation of the training plan.
- The Ministry of Public Works and Transport of Cambodia and its affiliated institutions played a leading role, working jointly with various domestic and international universities, research institutions, and enterprises to implement the project.

Future Strategies and Plans

- Strengthen cooperation among CLV national participants in the road sector by organizing regular exchange activities and sharing experiences and technologies in road maintenance, with the aim of jointly promoting regional road infrastructure improvement and development, thereby enhancing economic ties and land transportation connectivity.
- Establish a long-term project monitoring mechanism to track and evaluate the sustainability and impact of project outcomes.

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Keywords

#DOMESTIC TRANSPORT
#SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
#ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE
#CAPACITY BUILDING

MAKE LEGAL ARRANGEMENT, LAWS, LEGISLATIONS AND REGULATIONS

MKCF CALL 1

Priority Sector: Information and Communication Technology (ICT)

Duration:

2016/12/01 - 2019/01/31

Project Description

In remote areas of Lao PDR, reliance on traditional paper-based methods for accessing laws and regulations created inefficiencies and increased the risk of outdated information, leading to misunderstandings among the public and local governments. The implementation of electronic databases was essential for building a law-based government, enhancing transparency, and promoting widespread access to current legal information.

The project not only focused on technical infrastructure but also emphasized knowledge transfer and system management. Through targeted training, local government officials gained the skills needed to independently manage regulatory data. This initiative aligned with the development goals of both the Lao government and the MKCF, playing a vital role in capacity-building efforts for e-government.

Objectives

- To increase the availability of information on laws and regulations in the areas of commerce and industry by developing a database, and to improve access to legal data for district offices in poor or underserved areas.

Country of Implementation

Lao PDR

Activities/Components

- Expert Recruitment: Assemble specialized teams to provide technical guidance and implementation support.
- Documentation Preparation: Convert regulations into web-compatible formats to enhance accessibility.
- Technology Distribution: Supply 45 computer systems with internet connectivity to underserved commercial offices nationwide.
- Knowledge Transfer: Facilitate international expertise sharing from South Korea and Viet Nam through professional development sessions.
- Progress Monitoring: Conduct semi-annual evaluation meetings to assess project progress and effectiveness.

Results Achieved

- The project made remarkable progress in technology development, the integration of regulatory content, and organizational collaboration, laying a solid foundation for achieving its ultimate goal. The next phase focused on data promotion, human resource training, and system optimization to enhance the practical use and societal impact of the platform.
- The Ministry of Industry and Commerce's legal database website (law.moic.gov.la) was developed and officially launched on December 25, 2018. The site serves as a crucial platform for both the public and government institutions to access laws and regulations online, marking the successful achievement of the project's primary objective.
- A wide range of legal documents—including laws, decisions, notifications, and application forms related to the industry and commerce sector—was collected and organized. These documents were also translated into English to improve accessibility for foreign investors and international partners.
- The initial design of the website's user interface was completed, along with the selection of appropriate technologies for the database system and the finalization of the system's technical specifications, laying the groundwork for full-scale implementation.
- At least 12 coordination meetings were held with various departments under the Ministry of Industry and Commerce. These engagements facilitated the joint collection and verification of regulatory data, ensuring the accuracy and comprehensiveness of the database.

Successful Factors/Strategies

- The goals and phased outputs—such as database development, regulation translation, publicity, and training—were clearly defined at each stage to ensure task controllability.
- A mechanism for multi-party participation and cross-departmental cooperation was established through regular consultations with various departments of the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, ensuring the completeness of regulation collection and securing policy support.
- By combining local and international consultants, the project not only introduced international IT experts to enhance the system's technical professionalism but also engaged local consultants to ensure the localization of language and regulatory content.
- The sustainability of the system was emphasized by integrating personnel training into the project design, enabling local officials to maintain the system in the future and reduce operating costs.
- External financial resources were effectively utilized, and MKCF funds were allocated strategically in phases to secure the necessary resources for the project.

Future Strategies and Plans

- This platform could further evolve toward multi-language support, mobile adaptation, and interactive functions—such as regulation inquiries and legal Q&A—and achieve interconnection with enterprise registration systems, government procurement systems, and other digital services to help build a broader e-government ecosystem.
- Furthermore, by continuously expanding content, enhancing user engagement through features like feedback mechanisms, and ensuring regular maintenance and updates, the platform's sustainability would be significantly strengthened.
- The project also demonstrated model replicability, enabling similar practices to be promoted across other government departments and contributing to the overall advancement of digital governance in Lao PDR.

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Keywords

#DIGITAL GOVERNANCE
#LEGAL ACCESSIBILITY
#PUBLIC TRANSPARENCY
#OPEN DATA

ENHANCE THE CAPACITY BUILDING OF APPLYING E-COMMERCE IN AGRICULTURE OF MEKONG REGION

MKCF CALL 2

Priority Sector: Information and Communication Technology (ICT)

Duration:

2018/02/05 - 2019/02/05

Project Description

E-commerce was considered to have the potential to increase profitability in agricultural markets by boosting sales and reducing search and transaction costs. As a result, the business community and governments in the Mekong region recognized the need to raise awareness about the application of e-commerce in agriculture. To identify the barriers to the development of agricultural e-commerce in the region, a research project was planned to assess the readiness of ICT and legal infrastructure.

At the time, agricultural enterprises faced challenges such as information asymmetry and limited market access. To address these issues, a two-day seminar was organized to introduce the concept of agricultural e-commerce, provide an overview of regional development, and invite successful businesses to share their experiences. In addition, visits were conducted to local agricultural enterprises using e-commerce for sales, and support was provided to various countries to promote their agricultural products on South Korean e-commerce platforms.

Objectives

Short-term Objectives:

- To identify the barriers to agricultural e-commerce in the Mekong region.
- To improve the knowledge of government officials and MSMEs regarding agricultural e-commerce.
- To assess the challenges MSMEs face in adopting e-commerce to enhance export capacity, and to develop a report recommending collaboration among Mekong countries and between governments and support organizations to facilitate agricultural e-commerce.

Country of Implementation

Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, and Viet Nam

Activities/Components

- Compiled the "Mekong National E-commerce and ICT Legal Basis Report" to assess obstacles to agricultural e-commerce development through field investigations and desktop research, providing policy references.
- Held a two-day capacity-building seminar to promote mutual understanding of agricultural e-commerce between the public and private sectors and to enhance MSMEs' capacity to apply e-commerce.
- Selected representative agricultural products and assisted Mekong national enterprises in entering major e-commerce platforms in South Korea to expand export channels.

Results Achieved

- A comprehensive report on the current state of e-commerce legal infrastructure in Mekong countries and the role of e-commerce in the development of regional Agricultural Value Chains (AVCs) was finalized. The report meticulously analyzed the opportunities and challenges in agricultural e-commerce development, serving as a crucial reference for both the public and private sectors in formulating relevant strategies and policies.
- A two-day seminar was organized, featuring experts from South Korea and Mekong River countries who presented e-commerce concepts and options for agricultural products to representatives of agricultural enterprises and government agencies. Many stakeholders participated, and visits to local agricultural enterprises were included, promoting dialogue and deepening understanding of e-commerce models, policies, and regulations.
- Regarding product promotion, the initial plan to support SMEs in entering the South Korean Trade e-market and disseminating product information was strategically adjusted during implementation.

Successful Factors/Strategies

- Accurately identified needs and clearly defined development and export goals for agricultural e-commerce in response to low awareness and promotional challenges.
- Multiple parties collaborated to form a project working group, with South Korea providing technical and market support, while Mekong River countries contributed local resources to jointly expand the market.
- A variety of activities were carried out, including the publication of decision-support reports, the organization of seminars to raise awareness, and the promotion of agricultural products—providing comprehensive, multi-dimensional support for the project.

Future Strategies and Plans

- To further promote project achievements, efforts could focus on strengthening policy support, enhancing enterprise capabilities, expanding market channels, and deepening regional cooperation.
- Cooperation and exchanges among enterprises in the Mekong River region and with South Korean enterprises could be promoted by establishing a cooperation mechanism to increase support for SMEs in adopting e-commerce and to reduce associated costs and risks. Additionally, market research could be conducted to better understand demand.

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Keywords

#AGRICULTURAL E-COMMERCE
#DIGITAL FARMING
#MEKONG ROK COOPERATION
#TRADE PROMOTION

WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT ON THE MEKONG RIVER LINKING WITH CATCHMENT OF THE TONLE SAP GREAT LAKE

MKCF CALL 1

Priority Sector: Environment

Duration

2016/11/09 - 2017/10/26

Project Description

The Mekong River and the Tonle Sap Great Lake form a vital ecological and economic system in the region, supporting rich biodiversity and the livelihoods of millions. However, decades of upstream development, overfishing, and weak resource management have degraded the system, resulting in declining fish stocks and increasing risks to agriculture—especially in Cambodia's floodplains.

The "Mekong–Great Lake Diversion" Project aims to enhance early-season water inflow into the Tonle Sap at the beginning of the wet season, after the lake has fully drained. This will support timely fish migration and help reduce risks to early rice crops. Through hydrological assessments, ecological studies, hydrodynamic modeling, and infrastructure planning, the project promotes integrated floodplain development, strengthens national food and water security, and fosters regional cooperation under the Mekong–Republic of Korea partnership.

Objectives

- To enhance the early migration of fish eggs, larvae, and juveniles from their spawning areas in the upper Mekong and its tributaries to the Tonle Sap Great Lake, the Mekong floodplains, and the sea.
- To reduce the risk of damage to early rice crops (May–July) in the downstream floodplains of Cambodia.

Country of Implementation

Cambodia

Activities/Components

- Conducted hydrological and ecological assessments to inform early flood flow strategies from the Mekong River to the Tonle Sap.
- Developed hydrodynamic models to simulate water movement and optimize the timing of lake in-filling.
- Designed infrastructure concepts to support water diversion and enhance flow control.
- Facilitated stakeholder consultations to ensure alignment with local needs and regional priorities.
- Applied integrated, multi-sectoral planning approaches to strengthen floodplain management and promote sustainable water resource development.

Results Achieved

- Scientific Assessments and Modeling: Recompiled and analyzed floodplain data to develop early flood scenarios that support fish migration and crop protection. Established an optimized hydrological data network to improve understanding of the Mekong–Tonle Sap flood dynamics and to inform long-term flood risk mapping and planning.
- Infrastructure Planning and Design: Proposed a multi-objective water conservancy scheme tailored to current and future land use, integrating considerations such as climate change, topography, soil conditions, and hydrology. The design supports national goals for water and food security and lays the foundation for sustainable floodplain development.
- Institutional Cooperation and Policy Promotion: Advanced planning under a flexible legal and institutional framework that encourages intersectoral collaboration, alignment of shared goals, and conflict mitigation—fostering a cooperative environment for integrated water resource management.

Successful Factors/Strategies

- Capacity Building and Knowledge Sharing: Enhanced local institutional knowledge and data accessibility laid a foundation for future research and governance.
- Participatory Planning: Involvement of stakeholders from national agencies, communities, and scientific institutions encouraged buy-in and long-term sustainability.
- Strategic Infrastructure Design: Multi-purpose infrastructure proposals aligned with ecological, agricultural, and hydrological priorities for long-term utility.

Future Strategies and Plans

- Expand the Collection of Hydrological and Related Data: Increase investment in the systematic collection of hydrological data and hydraulic characteristics in floodplain areas—particularly in key regions where detailed topographic and land survey data are lacking.
- Integrate Disparate Data Resources: Establish a unified and centralized data management platform to consolidate hydrological, topographical, fisheries, and other sectoral data that are currently fragmented across various institutions.
- Promote Cross-Sectoral Planning and Collaboration: Strengthen and institutionalize collaboration among key sectors—including water resources, agriculture, fisheries, and environmental protection—through joint planning mechanisms. Such coordinated efforts will contribute to more efficient resource use and the achievement of sustainable development goals in flood-prone regions.

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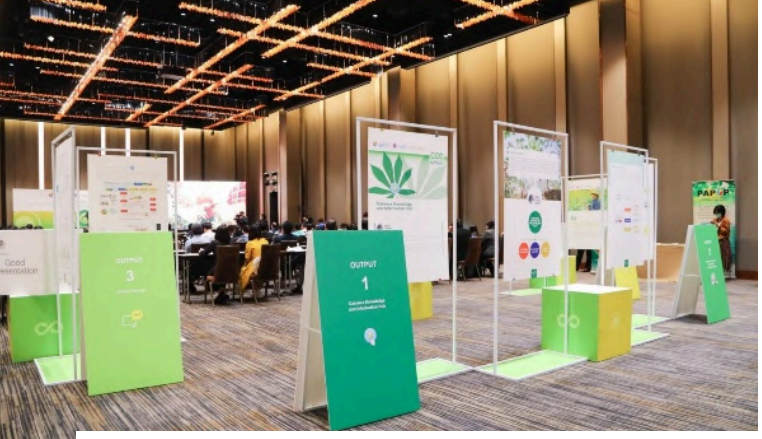
Keywords

#WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT
#TONLE SAP GREAT LAKE
#MEKONG RIVER
#FLOODPLAIN DEVELOPMENT



CAPACITY BUILDING ON CIRCULAR ECONOMY, RESOURCE AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY FOR PRODUCTIVITY AND SUSTAINABILITY OF CASSAVA CHAIN TO HIGH VALUE PRODUCTS: CASSAVA ROOT, NATIVE STARCH, AND BIOGAS IN MEKONG COUNTRIES (CCC)

MKCF CALL 3
Priority Sector: Environment

Duration:

2020/07/01 - 2022/12/31

Project Description

Cassava is a vital economic crop in the Mekong region, contributing significantly to national economies. Thailand currently leads as the world's largest exporter of cassava starch, followed by Cambodia and Viet Nam. Together, these countries account for approximately 90% of the global market share—owing to abundant cassava supply and advanced processing technologies. However, analysis reveals critical gaps across the value chain, including limited regional collaboration, outdated farming practices, insufficient access to improved cassava varieties, and a lack of investment in product-specific cultivation and innovation. In addition, there is limited awareness of the environmental and health concerns associated with cassava production.

To address these challenges, it is essential to enhance the productivity, sustainability, and competitiveness of the cassava value chain, particularly in CLMV countries. Key interventions include promoting the use of renewable energy, improving energy efficiency in cassava processing, and investing in zero-waste production practices. Capacity building through targeted training modules on modern cultivation techniques, value-added product development, and effective waste management will also be critical to strengthening the sector and ensuring its long-term resilience.

Objectives

- To strengthen and sustain the development of the cassava industry in the CLMVT region through knowledge and technology transfer, as well as cooperation in research and industrial activities.
- To enhance the skills and mobility of CLMVT participants by facilitating knowledge and experience exchange through training courses related to the cassava value chain.

Country of Implementation

Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, and Viet Nam

Activities/Components

- **A-1.** Cassava knowledge and technology hub established to facilitate dissemination and support technology transfer.
- **A-2.** Manuals and toolkits developed to support effective technology transfer.
- **A-3.** Project lessons learned and cassava technologies widely disseminated.
- **B-1.** Training of cassava plantation technology conducted in Thailand for cassava producers and farmers from CLMVT.
- **B-2.** Training of cassava starch technology conducted in Thailand for plant managers, operators and technicians in cassava starch production process from CLMVT.
- **B-3.** Training of waste management and biogas technology conducted in Thailand for plant managers, operators and technicians in biogas production process from CLMVT.

Results Achieved

- The "ASEAN Cassava Knowledge and Technology Center" was established as a platform for knowledge sharing and technology dissemination across the five CLMVT countries. The center continuously released training materials and industry updates through its website (sustainablecassava.org) and social media platforms (Facebook, LinkedIn, YouTube), creating a convenient space for information exchange and strengthening regional cooperation and professional networks.
- Three major modules of both online and on-site training courses were developed and delivered, covering sustainable cassava cultivation, starch processing, and waste management including biogas production. The training integrated "near-zero waste" and circular economy concepts, emphasizing optimization across the entire value chain. More than 100 practitioners from CLMVT countries—including farmers, engineers, and researchers—participated, significantly enhancing regional capacity and strengthening professional human resources.
- Operation manuals, toolkits, and instructional videos covering the entire cassava value chain were compiled, providing standardized materials for future local adaptation and dissemination.
- The project integrated circular economy principles, "near-zero waste" strategies, and green industrial development concepts across the cassava industry chain, shifting away from traditional high-consumption and high-pollution practices.

Training Modules

- **Training Module 1**: Cassava Root: Techniques for Sustainable Production
- **Training Module 2**: Cassava Starch: Processing Technology
- **Training Module 3**: Cassava Waste: Biogas Production and Waste Management

Successful Factors/Strategies

- **Regional Collaboration and Knowledge Sharing**: The establishment of the ASEAN Cassava Knowledge and Technology Center fostered strong regional cooperation, enabling continuous exchange of information, technology, and best practices among CLMVT countries.
- **Capacity Building and Sustainable Innovation**: Comprehensive training programs and standardized materials empowered practitioners with modern, sustainable cultivation, processing, and waste management techniques, while integrating circular economy and near-zero waste concepts throughout the value chain.
- **Integration of Environmental and Market-Oriented Approaches**: The project promoted environmentally responsible production and increased awareness of health and sustainability standards, while enhancing market access and trade opportunities to strengthen the cassava industry's competitiveness and long-term resilience.

Future Strategies and Plans

- Promote the localization and institutionalization of training by establishing a Training of Trainers (ToT) mechanism within the region. This will enable local governments and technical institutions to independently conduct training, moving beyond centralized and demonstration-based models with limited reach.
- Establish a long-term tracking mechanism—including on-site technical follow-up visits, online consultation platforms, and small-scale financial support for continued project implementation—to assess the practical application of the training received and provide ongoing technical guidance, thereby ensuring effective technology adoption.

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Keywords

#CASSAVA VALUE CHAIN
#CLMVT COOPERATION
#SUSTAINABLE AGROINDUSTRY
#GREEN PROCESSING
#AGRITECH FOR DEVELOPMENT

WATER DATA UTILIZATION AND CAPACITY BUILDING IN THE MEKONG REGION

MKCF CALL 3
Priority Sector: Environment

Duration:
2019/10/15 - 2022/10/14

Project Description

The Mekong region has experienced rapid economic growth; however, climate change and urbanization have intensified water-related disasters and upstream–downstream water disputes, posing significant challenges to sustainable development.

To address these issues, the Republic of Korea and the United States launched a capacity-building project focused on water data utilization in the Mekong basin. This initiative aligns with the Friends of the Lower Mekong–Mekong River Commission Joint Statement (August 2018), which emphasizes strengthening water data management and information sharing. The project seeks to create synergy between South Korea's New Southern Policy and the U.S. Indo-Pacific Vision by supporting scientific, data-driven water resources management. The ultimate goal is to enhance disaster resilience and promote sustainable development in the Mekong region by improving the accessibility and utilization of essential data for integrated water resources management (IWRM).

Objectives

- To develop and provide satellite-based disaster analysis capabilities that generate and utilize hydrological data to mitigate water-related disasters such as floods and droughts, while building capacity for water data utilization in the Mekong region.
- To produce and deliver hydrological data through the integration of NASA's satellite-based observations and analytical tools.
- To enhance water security and public safety by developing monitoring capabilities for the prevention and mitigation of water-related disasters using both satellite and ground-based data.
- To strengthen the application of analytical technologies—such as hydraulic and hydrological models (e.g., HEC-RAS, HEC-HMS)—in vulnerable areas by linking hydrological and satellite data.
- To build the expertise of Mekong countries and the Mekong River Commission (MRC) in utilizing global and regional water data and conducting disaster vulnerability analyses.

Country of Implementation

Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, and Viet Nam

Activities/Components

- The project's planned activities focused on Water Data Utilization and Capacity Building, comprising data production and analysis, training programs, and regional cooperation and exchange.
- Implementation was jointly carried out by K-water (Republic of Korea), NASA, and USACE (United States Army Corps of Engineers). By combining remote sensing, ground measurements, and model-based analysis, a scientific framework for water resources management was established.
- The overall objective was to strengthen the capacity of Mekong River countries to manage water-related disasters, promote sustainable regional development, and reduce transboundary water resource conflicts.
- Through training and technology transfer, water resource managers in participating countries were equipped with international-standard hydrological modeling tools such as HEC-RAS and HEC-HMS, thereby enhancing local capabilities in disaster assessment and water management.

Results Achieved

- K-water, in collaboration with NASA, successfully constructed a satellite remote sensing hydrological database covering both the upper and lower Mekong River. This system enables the monitoring of river water levels, reservoir operations, and drought and flood events, providing a scientific foundation for disaster early warning and response. The database was integrated with ground observation data and validated to ensure accuracy and practical application.
- The project achieved notable progress in capacity building by organizing numerous regional training sessions and specialized seminars. These covered basic data processing, advanced hydrological modeling (HEC-RAS and HEC-HMS), policymaking, and international knowledge exchange. More than 50 government officials, technical staff, and MRC-related personnel from the five Mekong River countries participated, significantly enhancing their capacity to apply satellite data and hydrological models in practical contexts.
- The project also promoted the initial establishment of mechanisms for information sharing and collaborative response among countries, reaching preliminary consensus on disaster management and water resource allocation.
- Through joint training and multi-stakeholder cooperation, the project deepened collaboration among international technical institutions—including K-water, NASA, and USACE—in the Mekong River region, laying a solid foundation for the sustainable development and technological expansion of future initiatives.

Successful Factors/Strategies

- The close cooperation between South Korean and United States institutions—K-water, NASA, and USACE—provided strong technical and managerial support, ensuring the project's advancement at the international level.
- The integration of satellite remote sensing with ground-based data significantly enhanced the practicality and accuracy of hydrological information. The project's "training + practical operation" model, which included invited training sessions, on-site instruction, and multi-country exchanges, improved participants' operational skills and decision-making capacity.
- Ongoing communication with the Mekong River Commission (MRC) and various regional institutions laid a solid foundation for project acceptance and deepened institutional cooperation.

Future Strategies and Plans

- Build a long-term education system with both online and offline components by continuously providing training and technical support through platforms such as the K-water Academy.
- Establish localized technical teams within Mekong River countries to gradually achieve technology localization and independent operational capabilities.
- Promote the establishment of regional data-sharing and disaster response mechanisms, and enhance coordination between the MRC and its member states. Continuous technological updates, talent development, and the construction of regional cooperation frameworks will ensure the long-term impact and sustainability of the project's outcomes.

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Keywords

#K-WATER
#WATER RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
#HYDROLOGICAL DATA
#CAPACITY BUILDING

DEVELOPING OF CLIMATE-RELATED DISASTER HAZARD ZONING MAP AND ENHANCING THE SALINITY INTRUSION MONITORING NETWORK IN CAN THO CITY

MKCF CALL 4

Priority Sector: Environment

Duration:

2021/06/23 - 2023/07/31

Project Description

Saline intrusion and climate change-related natural risks have increasingly affected countries in the Mekong region, particularly those in the lower Mekong River basin. Rising sea levels and altered river flows during the dry season have intensified sea tides and saline intrusion. Since mid-2019, the Mekong River's water levels have remained critically low, severely impacting livelihoods and public health—especially for farmers who rely on river water for irrigation and freshwater aquaculture. These activities are highly sensitive to salinity and therefore face a high risk of loss. Combined with the broader effects of climate change-induced natural hazards, vulnerable populations in the Mekong region—particularly the poor and farming communities—have been disproportionately affected.

Objectives

- To improve the capacity to provide early warnings of natural disaster risks and saline intrusion, enabling local governments to proactively develop timely response plans to minimize damage to people and property caused by climate change.
- To improve access to information on saline intrusion; raise community awareness of natural disaster and salinity risks; and enhance adaptive capacity to climate change.

Country of Implementation

Viet Nam

Activities/Components

- Development of a Climate Change-Related Disaster Risk Zoning Map: This component included project approval procedures, start-up seminars, consultant selection, on-site data collection, map development, and seminars to present preliminary results and assess public awareness.
- Enhancement of the Saline Intrusion Monitoring Network: This involved the procurement and installation of online monitoring equipment, site selection, establishment of data transmission and reception systems, data analysis and database development, training for equipment operators, report preparation, creation and dissemination of communication materials and databases, organization of training sessions, and presentation of final results.

Results Achieved

- To enhance disaster monitoring and early warning capacity, 34 disaster hazard zone atlases were developed, covering various risks. the paper maps provided detailed information on the impacts of different hazards on agriculture and residents' lives, offering strong support for disaster early warning systems. Three (3) continuous automatic salt monitoring stations were installed and have been operating stably, transmitting data every 10 minutes to promptly capture changes in river water salinity. This has significantly strengthened salt intrusion monitoring and early warning capabilities.
- Significant progress was also made in raising public awareness. Nine training courses and a variety of promotional materials were conducted and distributed, increasing awareness among local governments and communities about salt intrusion and climate change risks. These efforts improved public access to relevant information and strengthened disaster preparedness and response planning.
- In terms of sustainable development and regional cooperation, the project outcomes provided a scientific basis and practical experience for Can Tho City and the broader Mekong Delta region in addressing climate change. The project also fostered meaningful collaboration between Viet Nam and South Korea, further deepening Mekong–ROK cooperation and contributing to regional development. These efforts accumulated valuable experience and laid a strong foundation for future related initiatives.

Successful Factors/Strategies

- The project implementation team actively engaged with multiple stakeholders to secure permission for the installation of river monitoring stations, ensuring the smooth progress of key project activities while avoiding additional costs and delays.
- The comprehensive application of information and communication technology (ICT), geographic information systems (GIS), and natural disaster risk assessment models and tools enabled thorough data collection and in-depth analysis of climate-related disaster risks.
- A variety of outreach methods—including training courses, brochures, and handbooks—were used to effectively disseminate knowledge on salt intrusion and climate change-related natural risks to local governments and the public, thereby enhancing public awareness and response capacity.

Future Strategies and Plans

- Maintain close communication and consultation with aid donors throughout the design and implementation of future projects to ensure compliance with donor regulations and government approval requirements.
- Work closely with local governments at the grassroots level, actively seek the consent and support of surrounding communities, and create a conducive environment for long-term project development.
- Pay attention to the renewal and upgrading of technical equipment, thoroughly understand equipment features, purchase and use equipment based on actual needs, and ensure its safety and monitoring accuracy.
- Strengthen data management by continuously improving the sharing mechanism for salt monitoring data and climate change information, providing more accurate data support for decision-making.

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Keywords

#CLIMATE CHANGE
#RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
#MONITORY EQUIPMENT
#CAPACITY BUILDING
#EARLY WARNING

PROMOTION OF INNOVATIVE RAINWATER FOR DRINKING (RFD) SYSTEM AS A SUSTAINABLE WATER SUPPLY IN RURAL HEALTH CARE FACILITIES (HCFS) AND/OR SCHOOLS

MKCF CALL 5

Priority Sector: Environment

Duration:

2022/01/01 - 2024/02/28

Project Description

Rapid population growth, climate change, and environmental pollution have resulted in a scarcity of clean water, significantly affecting wellbeing, particularly in rural areas. Advanced technologies from developed nations like South Korea are essential for Mekong Basin countries to improve living conditions and address environmental challenges. This project involved the construction of a 20 m^3 pilot Rainwater for Drinking (RFD) system at one rural hospital or school in each of the five Mekong countries (CLMVT), providing 500 liters of safe, sustainable drinking water daily. Local residents and officials were trained in system maintenance, and design and operational guidelines were proposed for potential future regulation.

Objectives

- To design, build, and operate a sustainable community-based RFD system at one rural healthcare facility or school in each of the five Mekong countries, providing over 500 people with 1 liter of drinking water daily.
- To establish a local management committee responsible for the post-handover operation of the system, fostering a sense of ownership.
- To train local residents for the dissemination of this innovative drinking water supply system.
- To propose a financial model for constructing such systems at all hospitals and schools by mobilizing ESG or CSR funds through public-private partnerships.
- To suggest legislation or regulations for the widespread implementation of community-based RFD systems throughout the country.
- To share Korean knowledge and the cultural significance of rainwater management as a climate change strategy, inspired by King Sejong the Great's invention of the world's first rain gauge in AD 1441.

Country of Implementation

Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand, and Viet Nam

Activities/Components

- Site Selection and Survey: Local governments selected a rural hospital or school based on factors such as location, water demand, technical capacity, and willingness of local authorities to support the project.
- Design of the RFD System: A self-sustaining model for rainwater harvesting was developed, utilizing local labor, skills, and materials for catchment, storage, and drinking water techniques.
- Construction of a 20 m^3 RFD System: The system was designed to produce 500 liters of water per day, meeting National Drinking Water Quality Standards.
- Handover to a Local Management Committee: The committee took responsibility for the system's operation, supported by one year of technical assistance and data monitoring.
- Training: Training was provided for operators, managers, and senior public officials.
- Guideline Development: A draft design guideline for RFD systems was created for potential regulatory consideration.

Results Achieved

- Five 20-cubic-meter Rainwater for Drinking (RFD) systems were successfully established in Viet Nam, Cambodia, Thailand, Lao PDR, and another region of Viet Nam, providing 500 people per site with 1 liter of clean drinking water daily, meeting national standards.
- A comprehensive water quality and quantity monitoring mechanism was developed for each system, along with operation and maintenance manuals and education/training plans to ensure stable operation and effective knowledge dissemination.
- A sustainable maintenance system was established through community participation, forming local management committees responsible for system operation and providing them with training. The Rain School Initiative gained recognition from the United Nations Water Action Agenda.
- International Rain School conferences and camp activities further promoted the concept of rainwater utilization. Detailed design and maintenance reports were prepared for each project site, offering valuable references for future projects.

Successful Factors/Strategies

- Community engagement, localized design, and school-based management were key to the project's success. The use of low-cost, locally sourced materials ensured adaptability.
- Training teachers and students fostered ownership and sustainability.
- Recognition by the UN Water Action Agenda amplified the project's impact and visibility, encouraging policy adoption and scaling across the Mekong region.

Future Strategies and Plans

- Maintenance is Key: Voluntary participation from school teachers and students is essential. Rain School activities should be integrated into the curriculum, and the Mekong school network will help generate interest.
- International Collaboration and Knowledge Sharing: These are essential for the success of the project.
- Efficient Operation of CBRS: Effective operation of the CBRS (Community-Based Rainwater Systems) is crucial for optimizing their impact.
- Countering Misconceptions: It is important to address misconceptions about the effectiveness and safety of rainwater harvesting through innovative social approaches, especially by engaging young students in Rain Schools.

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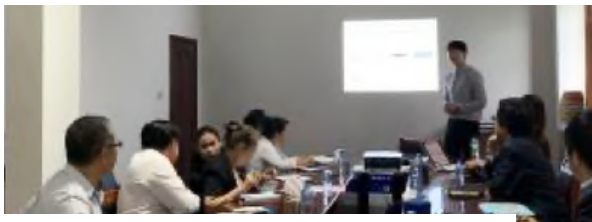
Keywords

#RAIN WATER
#SAFETY
#WATER RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
#SUSTAINABLE DRINKING WATER
#CAPACITY BUILDING



MASTER PLAN ESTABLISHMENT AND CAPACITY BUILDING FOR THE MODERNIZATION AND ADVANCEMENT OF HYDRO-METEOROLOGICAL INFRASTRUCTURE AT MEKONG RIVER BASIN IN LAO PDR

MKCF CALL 2

Priority Sector: Non-Traditional Security Challenges

Duration:

2018/03/30 - 2024/04/30

Project Description

Lao PDR, located in the lower Mekong River Basin, relies heavily on the basin's water resources for its economy and the livelihoods of its people. However, its hydro-meteorological service capacity lags behind that of regional counterparts, facing challenges such as insufficient observation networks, outdated data collection methods, and severely limited budgets. Weak infrastructure, fragmented data systems, and a lack of skilled personnel and financial resources have created major obstacles in addressing climate change and natural disasters.

Recognizing the urgent need to reduce casualties and property losses from natural disasters, the project aimed to modernize the national hydro-meteorological system. This included strengthening early warning capabilities and enhancing the overall disaster risk reduction (DRR) and disaster risk management (DRM) capacity of Lao PDR.

Objectives

- To establish a Master Plan for the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology (DMH) and conduct capacity-building invitational training programs for DMH officials.
- To successfully organize two invitational training programs in Korea, with a total of sixteen (16) DMH officials completing the courses, following the establishment of the Master Plan and Action Plan for DMH.

Country of Implementation

Lao PDR / Lower Mekong River Basin

Activities/Components

- Established a Strategic Master Plan for the modernization and advancement of Lao PDR's national hydro-meteorological services, serving as a mid-to-long-term development roadmap.
- Strengthened human capacity through invitational training in Korea, focusing on management, meteorological data analysis, and ICT-based system operations.
- Enhanced Disaster Risk Management (DRM) capabilities by improving forecasting accuracy, early warning systems, and real-time data integration.
- Fostered regional cooperation and knowledge exchange by incorporating Korea's modernization experience and promoting collaboration among Mekong countries.
- Supported future financing and projects through the development of a phased Action Plan and pilot project concepts, aligned with potential donors such as KOICA and the World Bank.

Results Achieved

- Completion of the National Master Plan: A comprehensive Master Plan for the modernization of hydro-meteorological services in Lao PDR was developed and reviewed by DMH and the World Bank. It includes a phased Action Plan for implementation and donor engagement.
- Improved Forecasting and Disaster Risk Reduction Capacity: A detailed To-Be Model was designed, covering system automation, integrated data management, real-time information dissemination, and quality control, laying the foundation for accurate and timely weather services.
- Capacity Building Achieved: Two training programs in Korea were successfully conducted, covering both management and technical/ICT aspects. A total of 16 DMH personnel received targeted, practical training.
- Linkage with Future Funding Projects: These are integrated into the World Bank's Lao PDR Southeast Asia DRM Project, and a pilot project proposal is being prepared for KOICA funding.
- Regional Impact and Scalability: The project model and master plan are scalable and can be replicated across other Mekong countries, fostering integrated regional cooperation in hydro-meteorological infrastructure and climate resilience.

Successful Factors/Strategies

- Effective Multi-stakeholder Collaboration: The project successfully coordinated among MoNRE, DMH (Lao PDR), WeatherPia (ROK), and the Mekong Institute, ensuring smooth implementation and alignment of interests.
- Leveraging Korea's Modernization Blueprint: The adoption of KMA's successful meteorological modernization model made the strategy practical and contextually relevant for Lao PDR.
- Tailored Capacity Building Programs: Trainings were adapted to different staff levels and job functions, ensuring high participation, relevance, and direct application of acquired skills.
- Integration with Major Donor Projects: Strong linkage with the World Bank DRM Project enhanced the credibility, fundability, and likelihood of successful implementation of the Master Plan.

Future Strategies and Plans

- Leveraging the World Bank DRM Project: Ensure full integration of the Master Plan into the World Bank's Component 2 on Hydromet Modernization and Early Warning Systems.
- Long-Term Training and Capacity Development: Establish continuous learning models, such as online platforms and regional training programs, to ensure sustained operational competency.
- Institutionalization of the Master Plan: Formal adoption of the Master Plan as a national strategic document within DMH to secure budgeting and policy alignment.
- Regional Cooperation and Knowledge Sharing: Extend the project's methodology to other Mekong countries to promote a regional hydromet network and cooperative DRM framework.

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Keywords

#HYDROMETEOROLOGY
#WEATHER FORECASTING
#CLIMATE ADAPTATION
#RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

COVID-19 Responses In Myanmar:
A Situational Analysis Of Information And
Communication Technology (ICT) For

SHARING OF EXPERIENCES, BEST PRACTICES AND LESSONS LEARNED IN CONTROLLING COVID-19 OUTBREAKS BETWEEN ROK AND MEKONG COUNTRIES

MKCF CALL 4

Priority Sector: Non-Traditional Security Challenges

Duration:

2021/03/15 - 2023/03/15

Project Description

The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted vulnerabilities in the global public health system, particularly in regions with high population mobility and uneven medical resources, such as the Mekong subregion. Increased interaction between this region and the Republic of Korea (ROK) underscored the need for closer cooperation in addressing non-traditional security challenges like epidemics. Notably, migrant workers, due to their legal, linguistic, and medical access vulnerabilities, often became overlooked in epidemic prevention efforts.

This project aimed to strengthen regional disease prevention and control capabilities through enhanced cooperation and information exchange. The focus was on establishing a robust collaborative mechanism to respond to potential future pandemics, improve overall response capabilities across countries, and provide a more secure public health system for nearly 250 million people.

Objectives

- To develop guidelines and curriculum for controlling the COVID-19 outbreak using ICT among migrant workers.

Country of Implementation

Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, Viet Nam, and Republic of Korea

Activities/Components

- Established a detailed work plan and cooperation mechanism, laying the foundation for subsequent activities.
- Conducted baseline studies to identify the challenges and advantages of Mekong subregion countries in epidemic prevention efforts, with a particular focus on ICT applications and migrant groups.
- Organized multiple online and offline seminars, bringing together experts and policymakers from the ROK and CLMTV countries to jointly develop "epidemic management training courses" and "ICT management guidelines" suitable for on-site use.
- Simultaneously conducted pilot studies in various countries to apply ICT tools to epidemic monitoring and response, and to record on-site experiences and feedback.

Results Achieved

- Effectively facilitated knowledge exchange between the Republic of Korea (ROK) and the five Mekong subregion countries (CLMTV) through virtual and in-person workshops, training sessions, and consultative meetings. These events enabled stakeholders to share best practices, lessons learned, and real-time policy experiences in managing the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Significant progress was made in implementing pilot studies in each Mekong country, focusing on the practical application of ICT tools in managing COVID-19 among migrant populations. These studies generated valuable data and insights that directly informed the development of two key deliverables: the "Guidelines on ICT Management for COVID-19 Response" and the "Training Curriculum," specifically tailored to frontline practitioners and health administrators working with vulnerable migrant communities.
- The project produced comprehensive documentation, including mid-term and final progress reports, as well as an After-Action Review (AAR), which evaluated the effectiveness, challenges, and adaptability of the implemented interventions. These documents served as both a record of achievement and a practical reference for future initiatives aimed at multi-country, multi-sectoral cooperation in public health.

Successful Factors/Strategies

- The project's success stemmed from its implementation strategy of multi-national collaboration and cross-departmental integration, effectively coordinating cooperation between the Republic of Korea (ROK) and the five Mekong subregion countries under diverse institutional and resource conditions.
- The adoption of an evidence-based pilot research method, which included conducting ICT application tests in each participating country, ensured the practicality and operational relevance of the final training courses and management guidelines.
- Focusing on the vulnerability of migrant worker populations and addressing critical blind spots in epidemic prevention enhanced the project's practical significance and policy value.
- Full utilization of online platforms for knowledge sharing and remote communication maintained high-frequency and high-quality interaction and learning despite epidemic-related restrictions.

Future Strategies and Plans

- To ensure the long-term benefits of the project outcomes, future strategies should focus on building institutionalized cooperation mechanisms, such as promoting regular communication platforms and joint working groups at the regional level.
- The developed training courses and ICT management guidelines can be integrated into the national training systems of Mekong subregion countries or the standard operating procedures of the health sector for localized and regular application.
- Further data sharing and joint research should be encouraged to continuously update response strategies and enhance regional epidemic prevention capabilities.
- Finally, seeking support from multilateral institutions or expanding to address other non-traditional security issues could further replicate and scale the project model, fostering a larger-scale regional cooperation effect.

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Keywords

#COVID19 RESPONSE
#COMMUNITY BASED HEALTH
#PUBLIC HEALTH SECURITY
#CAPACITY BUILDING

ENHANCING PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE CONNECTIVITY TO ADDRESS NON-TRADITIONAL SECURITY CHALLENGES IN THE MEKONG REGION

MKCF CALL 6

Priority Sector: Non-traditional Security Challenge

Duration:

2023/01/16 - 2025/01/15

Project Description

The Department of Provincial Administration (DOPA) under Thailand's Ministry of Interior is responsible for maintaining public order and internal security, including in border areas. Since 2014, DOPA has implemented the "People-to-People Connectivity" (P2P) Project to address non-traditional security challenges such as human trafficking, drug trafficking, people smuggling, and illegal migration, by enhancing connectivity among border area residents. Annually, the P2P Project organizes security, economic, and socio-cultural activities in 128 border districts across 31 provinces, fostering friendly relations, interaction, and trust between Thailand and its neighbors. This initiative has contributed to reduced conflict and improved cooperation between local Thai officials and their counterparts in neighboring countries. DOPA's presence as area managers in every district ensures effective border area management.

Objectives

- To strengthen relations between local communities and government officials in border areas.
- To raise awareness and empower local authorities in the Mekong region—particularly in Thailand, Lao PDR, and Cambodia.
- To combat non-traditional security challenges such as human trafficking, drug smuggling, and illegal migration.

Country of Implementation

Cambodia, Lao PDR, and Thailand

Activities/Components

- **Phase One**: Project launch ceremony, online mechanism construction, cross-border visits and cooperation, local promotion, and institutionalization.
- **Phase Two**: Mutual visits and phase review, mechanism optimization and implementation, and summary seminar.

Results Achieved

- In personnel exchanges, three Mekong River Linkage Seminars attracted approximately 270 local officials, strengthening cross-border relations. Mutual visits also enhanced connections among officials and community relations.
- For institutional building, 44 NTS-Mekong Watch coordination centers were established, providing a public platform (www.nts-mekong.com) for reporting security issues and promoting cooperation between communities and authorities.
- In publicity, the project website received around 5,100 annual visits, with approximately 20 articles published in both Thai and English. Video production and the dissemination of government mechanism information further enhanced the project's influence.
- For cooperation expansion, a joint event with UNODC involved 11 government agencies, strengthening collaboration and refining the roadmap. Multiple training sessions on non-traditional security topics increased the awareness and response capabilities of relevant personnel.
- Overall, these achievements effectively improved the region's ability to address non-traditional security challenges and laid a solid foundation for the security and stability of the Mekong River region.
- Reciprocal Visit: Thai district officers from 44 districts are hosting their counterparts from Laos PDR and Cambodia in Thailand, following last year's group visits to those countries in 2023. The visit aims to strengthen relationships between officials and their communities. The program features two main activities: first, a meeting at the NTS-Mekong Watch Coordination Center, where both sides can consult on border security issues and the well-being of their communities. This is followed by sports and cultural exchange activities, with some areas offering educational tours focused on Self-Sufficiency Best Practices.

Successful Factors/Strategies

- The Mekong River Linkage Symposium and mutual visits promoted exchanges between officials and communities in the border areas of Lao PDR, Cambodia, and Thailand.
- The project website, with approximately 5,100 annual visits for information and public reports, became an important platform for information exchange.
- Video production and information dissemination through government mechanisms enhanced the project's visibility and public participation.

Future Strategies and Plans

- Continue strengthening cooperation with neighboring countries in combating cross-border crimes through regular exchanges and information sharing, enhancing regional capacity in addressing non-traditional security challenges and maintaining the security and stability of the Mekong River region.
- Integrate project concepts, goals, and activities into DOPA's existing "People-to-People Connectivity" project to ensure the long-term continuation and development of achievements, while continuously improving border management operations.

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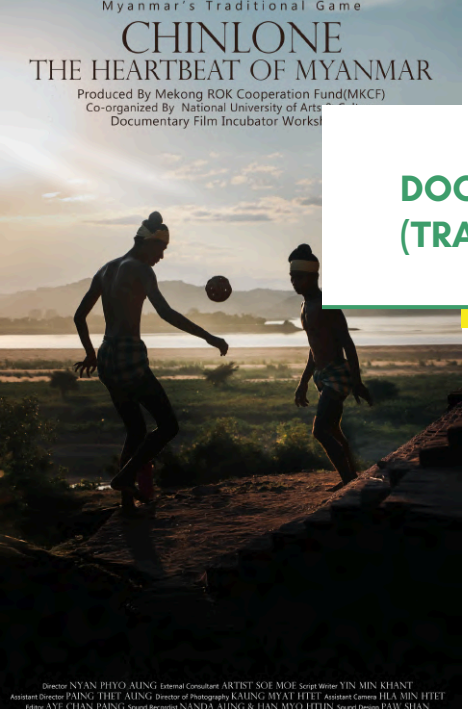
Keywords

#NON-TRADITIONAL APPROACH
#CIVIC ENGAGEMENT
#PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE CONNECTIVITY
#CAPACITY BUILDING

ONGOING PROJECTS



DOCUMENTARY FILM FESTIVAL (TRADITIONAL GAMES AND FOODS)

MKCF CALL 7

Priority Sector: Culture and Tourism

Duration:

2024/03/01 - 2025/02/28

Project Description

The Mekong region is home to rich and diverse traditional cultures that face common challenges in safeguarding both intangible and tangible heritage due to external cultural influences and technological advancements. Urgent cooperation among the five Mekong countries and the Republic of Korea (ROK) is needed, aligning with the well-regarded Mekong-ROK cooperation areas.

This project hosted a Documentary Film Festival focusing on Traditional Games and Foods in Yangon, Myanmar, with the potential for expansion to other Mekong-ROK locations. The festival aimed to preserve and enhance respect for cultural differences in traditional games and foods. It featured three key activities: A Pre-Documentary Film Incubator Workshop in Myanmar, A Documentary Film Incubator Workshop Youth Camp across Mekong-ROK countries, The final Documentary Film Festival in Myanmar. The festival engaged young filmmakers to foster greater understanding and interaction.

Objectives

- To utilize media to develop and share traditional games and foods in the Mekong region.
- To improve filmmaking skills for young filmmakers from Mekong countries.
- To preserve and promote respect for cultural differences, traditions, and customs of Mekong-ROK countries.
- To promote cultural cooperation, mutual understanding, and friendship among the youth of the Mekong region and the ROK.

Country of Implementation

Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, and Viet Nam

Activities/Components

- Twelve external consultants from Mekong-ROK countries gathered in Yangon to lay the foundation for professional networking and skill-sharing among youth filmmakers.
- National workshops guided youth in creating original documentaries on local traditional games and foods, supported by two consultants in each country.
- The culmination of the year's work - 8 youth and professionals came together to screen their films, engage in lectures, and build friendships.

Theme:

"Mekong Culture Wave: A sustainable Culture Norms, always enjoy Tradition."

Aim:

Raised awareness, exchanged experiences, and shared ideas on current and emerging issues related to cultural activities and promotions.

Long-term goal:

Ensure the Mekong cultural wave remains and spreads globally.

Expected Results

- Cultural Inheritance and Promotion: Encouraged more young filmmakers to create documentaries about traditional games and cuisine in the Mekong-ROK region, enhancing the protection and respect for cultural heritage and promoting the inheritance of cultural diversity.
- Provided platforms and resources for young filmmakers to deeply explore and showcase the traditional cultures of various regions through organized activities.
- Enhanced the professional capabilities of young filmmakers in documentary production by holding film production workshops and inviting professional external consultants.

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Keywords

#TRADITIONAL
#FILM CULTURE
#SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
#CAPACITY BUILDING

PROMOTING CREATIVE INDUSTRY FOR HERITAGE TOURISM DEVELOPMENT IN THE MEKONG REGION (CREATIVE4MEKONG)

MKCF CALL 7

Priority Sector: Culture and Tourism

Duration:

2024/03/01 - 2027/02/28

Project Description

The creative industry is a significant driver of cultural tourism and economic growth in the Mekong countries. However, the COVID-19 pandemic has severely impacted this sector, with heritage sites experiencing a slower recovery, varying across countries with different economic development levels and recovery capacities. This downturn poses a risk to cultural skills and knowledge, as workers seek new opportunities, potentially leading to the loss of traditional heritage and the cultural foundations associated with key monuments. These monuments are vital to the region's unique cultural identity and tourism appeal. Furthermore, while micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) are major economic contributors, the creative sector within them often lacks clear classification and tailored policy support, hindering their competitiveness. Weak intellectual property (IP) protection regimes in many Mekong countries further impede the growth of a thriving creative economy.

Recognizing the crucial role of heritage and the challenges faced by the cultural and creative industries, the Mekong Institute is implementing the three-year "Promoting Creative Industry for Heritage Tourism Development in the Mekong Region" (Creative4Mekong) project. This initiative aims to bolster the resilience of the Lower Mekong Countries by strengthening creative industries, supporting cultural heritage conservation, and fostering tourism development for socio-economic recovery through digital platforms. The project focuses on selected World Heritage Sites in Siem Reap (Cambodia), Luang Prabang (Lao PDR), Bagan (Myanmar), Ayutthaya (Thailand), and Hue (Viet Nam), emphasizing multilateral and regional coordination to ensure the sector's sustainable growth.

Objectives

To enhance the economic potential of the creative industries in the five Mekong countries by strengthening creative industries for cultural heritage conservation and tourism development at World Heritage Sites for socio-economic development.

Country of Implementation

Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, Viet Nam, and Republic of Korea

Activities/Components

- Develop a business plan for the creative group association, summarizing key aspects such as legal information, business operations, results, and financial performance.
- Adopt innovative methods to design and conduct training, covering topics such as business plan concepts, innovative profit models, cultural tourism, marketing, support services for association members, and sustainable development plans.
- Conduct research on each Mekong River country to clarify the specific circumstances of intellectual property rights, such as copyrights, related rights, trademarks, geographical indications, and industrial designs in the creative industry. Identify problems and propose suggestions.
- Develop a toolkit and conduct training on the core concepts and practical skills of creative tourism.
- Develop artificial intelligence functions for the application platform.

Expected Results

- Output 1: Strengthened and established cooperatives among cultural groups/creative industries.
- Output 2: Strengthened protection of copyrights and creativity through intellectual property rights (IPRs) in the heritage sector, arts, media, and functional creations.
- Output 3: Promoted creative MSMEs through digital platforms.
- Output 4: Introduced sustainable solutions for cultural tourism and creative industries.
- Output 5: Promoted innovative practices in cultural and creative industries.
- Output 6: Baseline data established.

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Keywords

#CREATIVE INDUSTRIES
#CULTURAL TOURISM
#SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
#CAPACITY BUILDING

MEKONG LEADERSHIP PROGRAM AND CAPACITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES (MEKONG LEAD AND MEKONG BUILD)

MKCF CALL 5

Priority Sector: Human Resources Development

Duration

2022/03/01 - 2025/12/31

Project Description

Human Resources Development (HRD) was a priority within the Mekong-ROK Cooperation framework. The 2nd Mekong-ROK Summit (Nov 2020) emphasized HRD's value in building a skilled workforce for regional co-prosperity, focusing on human capital development in strategic areas. Despite strong interest, regional HRD cooperation faced challenges due to its multisectoral nature and a lack of strategic approach. The Mekong LEAD (Leadership Program) and Mekong BUILD (Capacity Building Activities) aimed to address uneven knowledge and capacity distribution, fostering trust in region-wide cooperation through high-level training, policy dialogues, technical exchanges, and joint studies.

Objectives

- To convene high-level policymakers for exchanging views, building mutual understanding, and developing policy options for proactive regional planning and coordinated management.
- To serve as a capacity-building platform and a resource for information/analysis on critical Mekong issues of common interest.
- To establish and promote a network of Mekong high-level, provincial/local leaders, academia, and entrepreneurs.
- To foster better relations and understanding among the people and nations of the Mekong region and development partners through high-level policy dialogues and cooperative studies.
- To streamline and synergize Mekong-related stakeholder mechanisms/forums to maximize inputs and achieve common sustainable development objectives.
- To enhance the public profile of the Mekong region to attract further cooperation, investment, and research from international partners.

Country of Implementation

Mekong-ROK Cooperation Member Countries

Activities/Components

- Offered a five-day intensive training for Mekong policymakers and executives, engaging renowned scholars and practitioners in structured, research-based dialogues.
- Curriculum planning and development were led by universities/research institutions in the region or South Korea, with the annual five-day agenda shaped by Mekong delegation leaders' opinions and expert-provided case studies.
- Organized post-meeting reports and follow-up activities, including alumni sharing, network building, newsletters, and impact assessments.
- Conducted annual research for Mekong LEAD, providing high-quality empirical research on prominent Mekong issues, and organized conferences/seminars to disseminate findings.

Expected Results

- **Short-term goal**: To bring together senior policymakers for exchange, trust-building, and regional policy formulation; build a capacity-building platform for Mekong issue information and analysis; and establish a network of high-level officials, local leaders, academia, and entrepreneurs.
- **Long-term goal**: To enhance relationships and understanding between Mekong people/countries and development partners through policy dialogue and research; optimize Mekong stakeholder mechanisms for sustainable development goals; and enhance the Mekong region's public image to attract more cooperation, investment, and research.

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Keywords

#HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT
#REGIONAL COOPERATION
#MEKONG-ROK
#CAPACITY BUILDING

STRENGTHENING TVET MANAGEMENT AND UPSKILLING TVET PERSONNEL TO MEET INDUSTRY DEMAND REFLECTING THE FOURTH INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION

MKCF CALL 6

Priority Sector: Human Resource Development

Duration:

2023/02/20 - 2025/02/20

Project Description

The School of Industrial Training and Education (SITE) aimed to provide Myanmar youth and TVET teachers with in-demand technologies and skills through national and international collaborations. SITE planned to introduce new technology programs, such as Aerial Control, but required lecturer skill upgrades in modernized automation systems. School managers also sought to learn about competitive TVET management systems. This project facilitated collaboration between SITE, KRIVET, and Hue Industrial College to build essential new skills and develop a strategic framework for intensive training programs.

Project Objectives

Short-term objectives:

- To identify teacher capability and provide intensive upskilling training for SITE and Hue Industrial College TVET personnel in the ROK.
- To disseminate the skills achieved by master trainers to local TVET teachers.

Long-term objectives:

- To satisfy industry needs.
- To improve the quality of training and the competency of TVET graduates.
- To produce high-paid employees in industries.
- To become a model school for other TVET institutes in Myanmar.

Country of Implementation

Myanmar, Viet Nam, Republic of Korea

Activities/Components

- Stakeholders' 7-day workshop for project initiation.
- Identification of common training needs in Drone Technology, IoT Technology, and Automation Technology during the workshop.
- Development of a framework for TVET personnel training implementation.
- Learning about TVET Management Systems of Korean TVET institutes.
- Training of TVET teachers in the ROK for IR 4.0 technologies for 6 weeks.
- Dissemination of training in Myanmar for 2 weeks with invited experts from the ROK.
- Monitor and evaluate the impact of the project.

Expected Results

- Conducted a training needs assessment and identified areas for capacity-building programs.
- Developed training manuals/curriculum on three thematic areas: (i) IoT Technology, (ii) Aerial Flight Control, (iii) Digital Beauty Therapy.
- Organized capacity-building programs on the three thematic areas for 19 SITE personnel.
- Enhanced knowledge, skills, and awareness of SITE personnel in IoT programming, Drone Piloting, and Facial Treatment.

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Keywords

#FUTURE TECHNOLOGY LAB
#TVET
#CAPACITY BUILDING
#AERIAL CONTROL

CAPACITY BUILDING ON REGIONAL PROJECT DESIGN, IMPLEMENTATION, MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF MKCF PROJECTS (PRIME)

MKCF CALL 6

Priority Sector: Human Resource Development

Duration:

2023/01/10 - 2026/01/09

Project Description

- Sub-regional cooperation among Mekong countries is vital to advancing regional integration and community building. In recognition of this, the ROK launched the Mekong-ROK Partnership in 2011, followed by the establishment of the MKCF in 2013. The MKCF supports collaboration across seven priority areas identified in the Han River Declaration.
- The MKCF promotes strategic cooperation through a structured, forward-looking framework. It provides grants for projects that address shared regional challenges, foster integration, and promote sustainable development. While projects may be implemented in a single country, they are designed to generate benefits across the entire Mekong region and the ROK.
- To strengthen the effectiveness of MKCF-supported initiatives, the Mekong Institute is implementing the PRIME Project, which aims to enhance institutional capacities at every stage of the project life cycle, with a focus on establishing systematic Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) processes for implementing agencies. Through PRIME, the MKCF seeks to build a stronger foundation for impactful, results-driven regional cooperation, contributing to a more resilient and integrated Mekong community.

Objectives

To enhance capacities of the eligible partners under the MKCF program by reinforcing regional cooperation and integration through designing and delivering collaborative projects across the seven priority sectors of the MKCF.

Country of Implementation

Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, Viet Nam, and Republic of Korea

Activities/Components

1. **Inception Workshop** (Year 1)
2. Training on **Regional Projects Identification** (Year 1, 2 and 3)
3. **Web-Cloud based Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Systems** Development (Year 1, 2 and 3)
4. Trainings on **Project Monitoring and Evaluation** (Year 1, 2 and 3)
5. **Structured Learning Visit (SLV)** cum Evaluation Workshop in Thailand (Year 1, 2 and 3)
6. **MKCF Roundtable Meetings and Forums** (Year 1, 2 and 3)
7. **MKCF Web-based Platform** Design and Social Media Campaign (Year 1, 2 and 3)

Expected Outputs

1. Conducted one Inception Workshop
2. Designed and delivered three (3) trainings on Regional Projects Identification
3. Developed and launched Web-Cloud-based Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Systems
4. Designed and delivered three (3) trainings on Project Monitoring and Evaluation
5. Conducted there (3) SLVs cum Evaluation Workshops in Mekong countries
6. Conducted MKCF Roundtable Meetings and Forums
7. Developed the MKCF Web-based Platform and conducted a Social Media Campaign

Expected Outcomes

1. Enhanced knowledge and skills on project cycle management on regional project design, implementation and monitoring and evaluation (M&E).
2. Developed and utilized the Monitoring and Evaluation System to support MKCF project implementation with accurate, evidence-based reporting, and improve project performance.
3. Enhanced cooperation and coordination among the MKCF project implementing agencies by sharing best practices, lessons learned and achievements of the project implementation.
4. Documented and showcased the results of the project implementations of PIAs through web base platform and social media platforms to the public for accessing relevant information as a contribution to enhancing donor cooperation and collaboration.
5. Adopted and introduced online M&E system for project monitoring and evaluation.
6. Strengthened the coordination mechanism among the nodal and related agencies in Mekong countries to fulfill the strategies involved in the Mekong-RoK Cooperation.
7. Enhanced sub regional cooperation and integration process among the Mekong countries through identification and implementation of joint projects in seven priority sectors in the Mekong region.
8. Enhanced the stakeholders and beneficiaries' capabilities in dealing with the project cycle management for cost-effective for contribution to sustainable economic and social development.

Expected Impact

Enhanced regional collaboration for sustainable development in the Mekong region.

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Keywords

#REGIONAL PROJECT IDENTIFICATION
#DEVELOPMENT PROJECT M&E
#REGIONAL COOPERATION
#CAPACITY BUILDING

HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT IN ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY EDUCATION AND RESEARCH IN MYANMAR

MKCF CALL 8

Priority Sector: Human Resources Development

Duration:

2025/03/20 - 2027/03/13

Project Description

This project focuses on strengthening the capacity of local communities and academic institutions in Myanmar to promote sustainable forestry and forest conservation. It aims to tackle key challenges such as deforestation, biodiversity loss, and over-reliance on teak and mangrove forests. By engaging communities in alternative livelihood opportunities and supporting academic research on sustainable forestry practices, the project fosters a more resilient and environmentally responsible approach to forest management. These efforts contribute to both ecological preservation and socioeconomic development, aligning with national and regional sustainability goals.

Objectives

- To reduce the reliance of local communities on forest resources like timber and fuelwood by offering alternative income-generating opportunities and improving livelihoods.
- To support sustainable forestry practices, contributing to regional and national objectives for environmental conservation and human resource development.
- To create long-lasting benefits by strengthening local capacities in both academic and community sectors.
- To promote sustainable practices that ensure the protection and sustainable use of forest resources in the Mekong region.

Country of Implementation

Myanmar, Thailand

Activities/Components

- To promote sustainable forest management practices through academic training, research, and community engagement.
- To support reforestation and conservation initiatives that restore degraded forests and enhance carbon storage.
- To conduct community-based training programs to educate local populations on sustainable forestry and alternative livelihood options.
- To provide training related to alternative income-generating activities to reduce dependence on destructive forest practices.
- To enhance faculty capacity-building programs in collaboration with international partners such as Kasetsart University (Thailand) and Korea University (Republic of Korea).
- To foster joint research initiatives.
- To establish collaborations with universities in Myanmar, Thailand, and Korea.
- To organize regional workshops to align conservation strategies across borders.

Expected Results

- Enhanced forestry education and research capabilities of UFES.
- Improved academic cooperation among UFES, Kasetsart University in Thailand, and Korean universities.
- Equipped community members with technical skills related to sustainable forestry industries.
- Established a demonstration forest as a learning center for sustainable forestry and biodiversity conservation.

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Keywords

#SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY
#COMMUNITY BASED CONSERVATION
#FOREST LIVELIHOODS
#MYANMAR ENVIRONMENT
#FOREST PROTECTION

ENHANCING COMPUTATIONAL SKILLS FOR STUDENTS IN MEKONG COUNTRIES AND THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA THROUGH CODING, IOTS AND AI LEARNING

MKCF CALL 8:

Priority Sector: Human Resource Development

Duration:

2025/03/30 - 2027/09/19

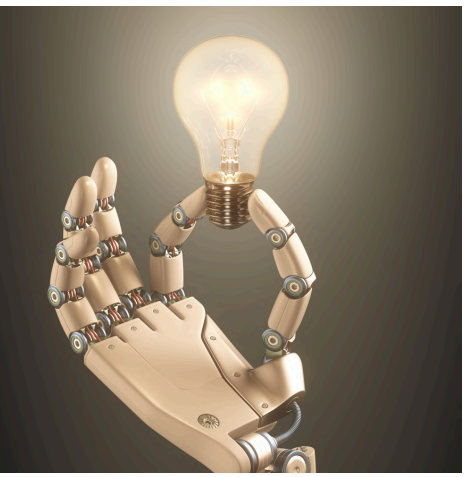
Project Description

Computational thinking (CT) is an essential skill for children in the 21st century, as it fosters problem-solving abilities crucial for navigating daily life challenges. In today's world, technologies such as Coding, the Internet of Things (IoT), and Artificial Intelligence (AI) are key drivers of innovation, efficiency, and transformation across all industries. These technologies not only empower individuals with skills for the future job market but also play a vital role in shaping a digitally connected global community.

This project, a collaborative initiative between the National Electronics and Computer Technology Center (NECTEC) and the Korea Advanced Institute of Science & Technology (KAIST), seeks to enhance the computational skills of students in ASEAN Mekong countries and the Republic of Korea. Through learning opportunities in coding, IoT, and AI, the project aims to equip the next generation with the essential skills needed to thrive in a technology-driven world and contribute to regional digital innovation.

Objectives

- To enhance technical skills (coding, IoT, and AI) among middle and high school students in the Mekong River Basin and the ROK.
- To foster computational thinking through STEM education and SDGs applications within the Mekong River Basin and the ROK.
- To promote education and skill development in the digital age.
- To encourage human resource development for the labor market within the Mekong River Basin and the ROK.



Country of Implementation

Mekong countries and Republic of Korea

Activities/Components

- Course development
- Online training
- On-site workshops
- Project development
- International seminar and innovative project contest
- Evaluation and summary report

Expected Results

- Learning modules on Coding, IoT, and AI in six languages, scalable across middle and high schools in Mekong countries and the Republic of Korea
- Training of over 135 experts in Coding, IoT, and AI to apply these skills in classrooms
- Implementation of the learning modules to more than 900 students among Mekong river basin
- Increasing awareness of SDGs and MKCF's 7 priority areas

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Keywords

#CAPACITY BUILDING
#EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY
#EDTECH
#CAIOT4CT
#KID BRIGHT
#CODEALIBI

DEMONSTRATION OF MODEL COMMUNITY FORESTS TO PROMOTE COMMUNITY FORESTRY DEVELOPMENT AND IMPROVE LIVELIHOOD OF LOCAL COMMUNITY

MKCF CALL 3

Priority Sector: Agriculture and Rural Development

Duration

2020/12/01 - 2023/11/30

Project Description

In Myanmar, a significant portion of the country was forested, supporting the livelihoods of a large percentage of the population and playing a crucial role in economic development and poverty reduction. However, Myanmar had become one of the countries with the highest rates of deforestation globally. To combat this and achieve sustainable forest management, the Myanmar Forest Policy emphasized participatory forest management as a key strategy.

This project primarily focused on building the capacity of communities and establishing community forests based on various thematic areas, including agroforestry, the collection of non-timber forest products (NTFP), and community-based tourism. The aim was to empower local communities in forest conservation while improving their livelihoods.

Project Objectives

- To encourage participatory forest conservation and reduce poverty in local communities by improving livelihoods through Community Forestry.
- To promote Community Forestry together with Community Forest-based Enterprise (CFE) development in the country.

Country of Implementation

Myanmar

Activities/Components

- Established three exemplary community forest lands in Naypyidaw and Shan State, integrating undergrowth economy, non-timber forest products (NTFP), and community tourism to enhance community forest management capacity.
- Enhanced forest coverage and promoted ecological restoration by building seedling farms and implementing forest restoration and agroforestry management.
- Conducted market and socio-economic analyses around community forest land products and services, formulated enterprise development plans, and promoted the establishment of community forestry enterprises (CFE) based on tourism and NTFP to expand community income channels.
- Focused on capacity building by providing training for community users and forestry department personnel, covering basic community forestry knowledge, forest resource inventory, market analysis, and agricultural and forestry technologies.
- Ensured activities proceeded as planned through regular monitoring and evaluation, while strengthening financial audit and project reporting mechanisms to enhance transparency and sustainability.

Expected Results

- Three exemplary community forest lands with different themes (agroforestry, NTFP utilization, and community tourism) were successfully established, significantly enhancing sustainable forest resource management.
- The capabilities of community residents and local forestry personnel were strengthened through systematic training and on-site practice, particularly in forest resource investigation, market analysis, and enterprise development skills.
- Enterprise Development Plans (CFEs) formulated based on community resources helped the community achieve sustainable income growth and improved livelihoods.
- The forest coverage rate and the effectiveness of ecological restoration were significantly improved, and the forest's disaster resistance capacity was enhanced through fire prevention facilities and road restoration.
- Effective project monitoring and financial auditing mechanisms ensured transparent and efficient project management, providing replicable models.

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Keywords

#COMMUNITY FORESTRY
#CLIMATE AGRICULTURE
#SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
#CAPACITY BUILDING

STRENGTHEN THE WATER USER ORGANIZATIONS (WUOS) FOR IRRIGATED AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT IN THE MEKONG DELTA

MKCF CALL 3

Priority Sector: Agriculture and Rural Development

Duration

2023/02/15 - 2026/02/15

Project Description

Irrigation played a crucial role in boosting agricultural yields and production in the Mekong Delta, supporting food security and export policies. It was also expected to mitigate crop damage from water shortages and salinity intrusion during the dry season, as well as reduce flooding in the wet season, aiding adaptation to climate change impacts. While the proportion of irrigated arable land was relatively small, its productivity significantly surpassed that of rain-fed areas.

As the Mekong Delta are shared by both Viet Nam and Cambodia, the project aims to provide technical support as well as capacity building to strengthen the water user organizations for irrigated agriculture development in both countries. It will also encourage the exchange of information, knowledge and experiences between relevant National Line Agencies of Cambodia, Viet Nam mainly and the other regional organizations including the Mekong River Commission (MRC) Secretariat; enhance skills and strengthen capacities of staffs of relevant LAs in those Countries.

Project Objective

The objective of the project is to create opportunity for local WUOs participation in water management and agriculture extension; and to provide recommendations for suitable modalities of the WUOs in the Mekong Delta to the government at both national and regional levels.
The project is dealing with the issues that link to the MKCF priorities as indicated in the sector mentioned above at regional/basin levels.

Country of Implementation

Cambodia and Viet Nam

Activities/Components

- Problem identification, application, and compilation of supporting tools and techniques to support project implementation; preparation of the database of WUOs.
- Review of existing policies related to WUOs in agriculture.
- Evaluation of WUOs' activities in agriculture.
- Prepared dissemination and communication materials for the economical and sustainable use of water resources.
- Prepared the concept for an Irrigation Management Transfer (IMT) process.
- Implemented a demonstration pilot case for the application of the IMT process.
- Organized workshops, forums, and consultations to exchange views and experiences in water management, agriculture extension, and evaluation of WUOs' functions in the agricultural system.
- Developed a draft capacity-building proposal for WUOs in the Mekong Delta.

Results Achieved to date

- The Project Management Unit (PMU) was established with participation from relevant agencies.
- The report on the capability assessment and status of WUOs in agriculture in the Mekong River Delta of Viet Nam was completed, identifying the issues, preparing data and information, and providing tools and techniques to implement the project.
- Dissemination and communication materials for the economical and sustainable use of water resources and the concept for an Irrigation Management Transfer process were completed.

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Keywords

#AGRICULTURAL TRAINING
#IRRIGATION WATER
#WATER USER ORGANIZATIONS
#CAPACITY BUILDING

SOIL, WATER AND NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT (SWNM) FOR INCREASING FARM HOUSEHOLDS' INCOME IN DROUGHT ZONES OF THE LAO PDR

MKCF CALL 4

Priority Sector: Agriculture and Rural Development

Duration

2021/04/19 - 2024/12/18

Project Description

Lao PDR's economy was primarily agricultural, contributing significantly to its GDP, with a substantial land area devoted to farming, mainly for subsistence sticky rice production. Soil quality, water scarcity, and plant nutrient deficiencies posed major agricultural challenges, particularly in drought-prone zones, leading to low yields and reduced farmer income. This unsustainable agriculture in remote areas drove young farmers to seek work in cities or overseas. While some farmers attempted harvesting and composting, insufficient water storage techniques hindered soil moisture retention, which is crucial for dry-season cropping.

The project aimed to address these issues through holistic demonstrations of proper soil, water, and nutrient management systems in three provinces (Savannakhet, Saravane, Champasack). These innovations emphasized adaptation and validation through farmer consultation, ensuring compatibility with their interests and practicalities. Ultimately, the project aimed to increase crop yield and farmer income, while reducing rural out-migration.

Project Objective

- To create optimal soil, water, and nutrient management models for farms in drought-prone areas of Lao PDR.
- To empower smallholder farmers to learn rainwater retention and soil improvement techniques for both wet and dry seasons.
- To promote the efficient use of agricultural land among smallholder farmers.
- To increase farmer income by facilitating market access.
- To reduce labor migration from rural areas to cities.

Country of Implementation

Lao PDR

Activities/Components

- Established land use, water, and crop nutrient management models, selected suitable villages and farmers, conducted baseline surveys, carried out land zoning and utilization planning, and provided technical and material support to farmers.
- Transformed field technologies into manuals, guidelines, and policies, communicated and cooperated with relevant departments and experts, and provided feedback on project experiences to the policy level.
- Promoted project achievements by organizing exchange activities among Mekong River countries, allowing representatives to visit the demonstration site.
- Developed soil, water, and nutrient management courses suitable for arid areas of Lao PDR, drawing on Thailand's experience, to enhance the scientific basis of project implementation.
- Trained local staff and conducted trainer training (TOT) to enhance their professional knowledge and teaching ability through theoretical study, discussion, and on-site practice.
- Supported farmer capacity building by providing training and demonstrations covering land zoning management, crop planting techniques, and organic fertilizer production, and offered material support and market connection guidance.

Expected Results

- Enhanced agricultural production levels.
- Enhanced the capabilities of local staff in soil, water, and crop nutrient management, with at least 50 local staff members mastering relevant skills and becoming farmer trainers.
- Equipped farmers with knowledge and skills for managing rainwater, producing compost, and planning activities.
- Increased farmer income in arid areas from pond agricultural land, rising from 100 to 300 US dollars.
- Enabled farmers to use pond water for crop production in both wet and dry seasons, with at least three mature crops grown in different seasons.
- Encouraged people in arid areas to work on their own farms, reducing rural-to-urban labor migration.
- Established and published 2 to 3 manuals, reflection materials on 3 topics, and 3 posters.

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Keywords

#AGRICULTURE
#FARMER TRAINING
#SWNM
#CAPACITY BUILDING

IMPACT OF MIGRATION ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT WITH SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON AGRICULTURE OF MON STATE, MYANMAR

MKCF CALL 5

Priority Sector:
Agriculture and Rural Development

Duration

2022/03/15 - 2025/03/31

Project Description

Agriculture was a primary economic driver in Myanmar, especially in developing regions like Mon State, where the majority of the population relied on it for income. However, despite its significance, the sector was underdeveloped, providing insufficient income and facing challenges such as proximity to Thailand, which attracted young adults seeking higher wages, leading to labor shortages. Consequently, rural development in Mon State lagged, necessitating an upgrade in socioeconomic conditions through increased productivity and value-added agricultural products. This research aimed to achieve rural development by mitigating migration impacts and enhancing the agriculture sector through value chain development.

Project Objective

The study's objectives were to reduce the impacts of migration in rural areas and to upgrade the agriculture sector, a major economic activity, and its related activities through value chain agricultural product production, aligning with national, regional, and MKCF priorities.

Country of Implementation

Myanmar-Mawlamyine (Mon State)

Activities/Components

- Data collection on migration in Mon State: Gathering migrant profiles (gender, age, education, previous work, income, remittances) to illustrate the actual state of migration.
- Knowledge exchange activities.
- Data collection on agriculture: Encompassing land ownership, experience, major crops, problems (labor shortage, low investment, cropping patterns, productivity, inputs, price fluctuation, low returns, vacant land, farmer perceptions) to depict agricultural decline.
- Data on the market of agricultural produce, agriculture-related industry, and value chain products: Collecting data to identify problems hindering grower benefits and feasible solutions, using time series, situational, and SWOT analysis to present migration, agriculture, and rural development in Mon State.

Expected Results

- To reduce the impacts of migration in the rural area.
- To upgrade the agriculture sector, a major economic activity of the rural area, and its related activities through value chain agricultural product production.
- The project's long-term sustainability would be ensured by its continuation as a master's student's thesis.

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Keywords

#ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
#MIGRATION
#AGRICULTURE PRODUCTS
#CAPACITY BUILDING

DEVELOPMENT AND PROMOTING OF SOLAR DRYER FOR AGRICULTURAL AND ODOP PRODUCTS

MKCF CALL 6

Priority Sector: Agriculture and Rural Development

Duration:

2023/01/09 - 2026/01/08

Project Description

The project addresses the limitations of traditional open sundry techniques widely used across rural areas of Lao PDR and neighboring countries. While these methods remain popular due to their low cost and simplicity, they result in significant product losses and quality degradation from environmental contamination (dirt, insects, animals), unpredictable weather conditions, and inconsistent drying temperatures. Solar dryers, utilizing scientific principles, offer a superior alternative by providing controlled environments that protect products from contamination while delivering more consistent results.

Project Objectives

- To contribute to rural development by enabling technology adoption that improves agricultural productivity and generates income.
- To support national social-economic development, poverty reduction, and rural development programs in Lao PDR.
- To increase solar dryer adoption and improve dried product quality through regional cooperation.
- To develop reliable solar dryer device with auxiliary heat source to suit the drying of each type of agricultural product.
- To create awareness and demand of using solar dryer through demonstrate system with real operation with selected ODOP production group/ Dried product enterprises.
- Strengthening capacity of local technician to provide service on solar dryer installation available in target area.
- Strengthening cooperation and best practice sharing on solar dryer development and promotion among Mekong country and the .

Country of Implementation

Lao PDR

Activities/Components

- Conduct surveys to collect data on drying demands and characteristics for various agriculture and ODOP products
- Organize study tours to exchange solar dryer knowledge with Thailand for adaptation to Lao PDR conditions
- Design and construct solar drying systems optimized for local conditions and needs. Deliver technical training courses on solar dryer construction
- Install demonstration systems featuring developed solar dryer technology
- Organize regional dissemination seminars to share project lessons with MCKF partners

Expected Results

- Project team be able to develop solar dryers with smart control system and sizing system based on requirements of client.
- KhaoLao House is a creative space where Lao culture comes alive through food, art, and craftsmanship. After discovering the project on social media, KhaoLao House began using the solar dryer developed by the project to dry sticky rice crackers. Previously, they had used open sun drying and had attempted to obtain Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) certification from the Ministry of Industry and Commerce for several years without success. To improve their processing method, KhaoLao House invested their own funds to adopt solar drying technology, with consultation, design, and installation provided by the project team. A mini dome-type solar dryer was installed and, after a few months of operation, KhaoLao House successfully received GMP certification.

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Keywords

#SOLAR DRYER
#ODOP PRODUCTS
#SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
#CAPACITY BUILDING

ENHANCE THE PRODUCTION OF SOYBEAN AND CREATE INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY FOR PROCESSING AND UTILIZING SOYBEANS IN LAO PDR AND VIET NAM

MKCF CALL 7

Priority Sector: Agriculture and Rural Development

Duration:

2024/03/01 - 2027/02/28

Project Description

The primary challenge for soybean cultivation in Lao PDR is the limited market demand for industrial processing, resulting in low prices and hindering farmer profitability. Despite high demand for soybean-based end products like tofu, soy milk, and soy oil, insufficient processing capacity in Lao PDR creates a surplus of soybeans with depressed prices. Additionally, low soybean yields in Lao PDR (0.6-2 t/ha), significantly lower than in other countries due to traditional farming, limited access to improved inputs, and pest/disease issues, exacerbate the problem. Viet Nam's substantial soybean import (4.5 million metric tons in 2020) highlights the regional demand, driven by the animal feed and food processing industries.

This project aims to address these issues by focusing on developing new varieties and innovative soybean-based products suitable for both domestic and international markets. This strategy will not only increase soybean demand but also generate new business opportunities for local farmers and small enterprises. By diversifying soybean utilization, the project seeks to reduce reliance on traditional production methods and foster a more sustainable and resilient soybean industry in Lao PDR, potentially benefiting the broader region given Viet Nam's import needs.

Objectives

- To identify core technologies to boost soybean productivity.
- To raise awareness and build capacity on nutrition-sensitive soybean benefits (consumption, production, processing) through training, workshops, and Farmer Field Schools (FFS).
- To enhance Lao PDR and Viet Nam soybean value addition using Korean models.

Country of Implementation

Lao PDR and Viet Nam

Activities/Components

- Activity One: To develop breeding plans through teamwork among members.
- Activity Two: To enhance soybean productivity by optimizing management.
- Activity Three: To teach farmers the best management practices for soybean production and processing to improve their production skills and knowledge.
- Activity Four: To train young scientists.
- Activity Five: To conduct scientific visits.
- Activity Six: To organize national training.
- Activity Seven: To develop educational materials.
- Activity Eight: To conduct soybean processing experiments.
- Activity Nine: To implement new optimized food technologies in FFS, develop commercialized soybean products, and explore business development models.

Expected Results

- Increase farmer soybean productivity by 1 ton per hectare (from 1.5 to 2.5 t/ha).
- Generate a sustainable income increase of over $300 per hectare for smallholder farmers.
- Develop four Farmer Field Schools (FFS) (2 in Lao PDR, 2 in Viet Nam) adapting new soybean production and processing technology.
- Increase knowledge and awareness of farmers and consumers on the importance of soybean consumption, production, and processing.
- Improve soybean producer access to markets through collaboration with local and Korean food processing sectors.
- Enhance knowledge and skills of 8 young scientists (4 from NAFRI, 4 from AGI) through on-the-job training in Korea.
- Train 88 Lao PDR and Viet Nam farmers, 16 local agricultural officers, and 16 internship students on soybean breeding, production, processing, and FFS implementation.
- Improve productivity and livelihoods of 240 FFS members from 16 FFS (8 in Lao PDR, 8 in Viet Nam).
- Benefit an additional 120-300 participants per country through training, workshops, seminars, seed and food fairs.
- Extend benefits to approximately 1,000 nearby households through access to seeds, handbooks, and field days.

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Keywords

#SOYBEAN CULTIVATION
#SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
#CAPACITY BUILDING

STRENGTHENING CLIMATE-SMART COFFEE PRODUCTION IN THE MEKONG SUBREGION OF LAO PDR AND VIET NAM

MKCF CALL 8

Priority Sector: Agriculture and Rural Development

Duration:

2025/03/20 - 2027/03/19

Project Description

Coffee production is a major agricultural activity and a significant consumer of water resources, posing risks to local water sustainability—especially under escalating climate threats. Despite past efforts, the adoption of climate-smart practices in Lao PDR and Viet Nam remains low. This project addresses unsustainable water use and limited uptake of climate-resilient methods through a comprehensive, multidisciplinary approach aligned with national and regional sustainability goals.

It begins with baseline assessments and risk analyses to evaluate current practices and climate vulnerabilities. Tailored training programs will equip farmers with skills for climate-smart production, while efforts to improve market access for sustainable coffee aim to increase economic incentives. Knowledge-sharing platforms, community engagement, and policy advocacy will support broader adoption and long-term agricultural resilience.

Objectives

- To build climate resilience through the adoption of climate-smart agricultural practices.
- To enhance market access and increase profitability for climate-smart coffee producers.
- To foster collaboration, knowledge-sharing, and social support among stakeholders.

Country of Implementation

Lao PDR and Viet Nam

Activities/Components

- Conducted baseline assessments, including climate-smart coffee production, socio-economic conditions, value chain, and market analysis.
- Developed action plans and scientific publications based on assessment findings.
- Delivered training programs and workshops to improve climate-smart production and market readiness.
- Facilitated technical assistance, stakeholder meetings, and post-intervention evaluations.
- Established farmer clubs and data-sharing platforms to promote peer learning and collaboration.
- Built partnerships and produced policy briefs to support institutional engagement and policy alignment.

Expected Results

- Increased adoption of climate-smart practices among coffee farmers.
- Improved market access and greater economic returns for climate-smart coffee products.
- Strengthened collaboration and community support through farmer clubs and partnerships.
- Enhanced technical capacity and knowledge dissemination across the coffee value chain.
- Tangible policy and institutional impact through briefs and stakeholder engagement.

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Keywords

#COFFEE PRODUCTION
#CLIMATE-RELATED THREATS
#SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
#CAPACITY BUILDING

COMMUNITY WATERSHED-BASED AGRICULTURE AND FISHERY DEVELOPMENT

MKCF CALL 8

Priority Sector :
Agriculture and Rural Development

Duration:

2025/03/20 - 2028/03/19

Project Description

Watershed management is critical for sustainable development in three Mekong sub-region countries, where agriculture and fisheries play key roles in local livelihoods. However, industrial activities in upstream and sloped highland areas—such as in Lam Dot commune, RS, Viet Nam—threaten downstream water quality, soil fertility, and biodiversity.

To address these challenges, the National Strategy for Water Resources and Fisheries in the three countries emphasizes increased fish consumption and sustainable aquatic resource management. This project supports those goals by addressing four key areas: identifying farmers' needs, developing essential infrastructure, demonstrating improved inputs and techniques, and enhancing local capacity through training. These integrated efforts aim to strengthen agriculture–fishery systems and promote long-term sustainability in the region.

Objectives

- To enhance the sustainability and productivity of community-based watershed agriculture and fishery systems through integrated management, capacity building, and community engagement.

Country of Implementation

Lao PDR and Viet Nam

Activities/Components

- Conducted structured surveys and stakeholder consultations to assess local needs in water resource, agriculture, and fishery management.
- Designed and constructed reservoirs and stream embankments with sluices to support irrigation, flood control, and fisheries.
- Excavated community fish ponds, built erosion-prevention embankments, and constructed hatcheries and nurseries for fish fry development.
- Organized training courses to build the capacity of village authorities and local farmers in water and resource management.

Expected Results

- Improved agricultural productivity and increased crop yields through enhanced farming practices.
- Increased fish production through effective community fish pond management.
- Strengthened the capacity of farmers, fishery workers, and community leaders through targeted training.
- Operational local institutions managing agriculture and fishery resources.
- Adoption of sustainable practices contributing to long-term environmental conservation.

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SCAN ME

CWAFD activities

Keywords

#FARMER
#WATER RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
#SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
#CAPACITY BUILDING

ENHANCING FOOD SECURITY AND SUSTAINABILITY IN THE MEKONG COUNTRIES THROUGH INNOVATIVE EDIBLE INSECT INTEGRATION FOR FUTURE FOOD

MKCF CALL 8:

Priority Sector: Agriculture and Rural Development

Duration:

2025/03/20 - 2028/03/19

Project Description

In the Mekong region and across Asia, edible insects are a staple in local diets, with 164 species documented in the Mekong alone and 932 across Asia. As commercial demand for insect-based foods grows, this sector presents significant profitability and potential. However, large-scale harvesting can jeopardize biodiversity, highlighting the need for sustainable farming practices.

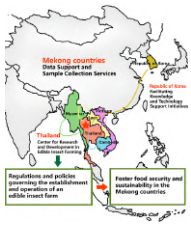
This project aims to address key challenges such as cultural resistance, regulatory gaps, and infrastructure limitations by advancing research and development in insect farming. The focus includes optimizing breeding practices, enhancing the nutritional value of insect-based foods, developing novel cosmetic products, and ensuring the long-term sustainability of insect populations, fostering both economic growth and ecological balance.

Objectives

- To promote the cultivation and consumption of edible insects as a sustainable food source that reduces malnutrition, lowers the environmental footprint of food production, and creates economic opportunities for smallholder farmers and rural communities.
- To align with regional cooperation goals, enhancing the resilience and prosperity of the Mekong countries while addressing challenges such as food insecurity, environmental degradation, and socio-economic disparities.

Country of Implementation

Thailand



Activities/Components

- Organize seminars and community activities to raise awareness about edible insects.
- Collaborate with schools, local leaders, and the media to integrate edible insect education into public discourse.
- Establish sustainable insect farming practices and provide training courses for farmers.
- Advance research and development on edible insects, ensuring product safety and appeal.
- Develop innovative processing and preservation technologies, and strengthen market infrastructure and value chains.
- Support the development of insect-based foods tailored to local tastes.

Expected Results

- Increased supply of insect-based protein, improving nutritional status and enhancing food system resilience.
- Higher income levels for farmers and entrepreneurs, establishment of new insect breeding enterprises, and promotion of economic growth.
- Reduced greenhouse gas emissions from traditional livestock farming, enhanced biodiversity, and improved soil health.
- Trained farmers in insect breeding techniques and improved professional skills of relevant personnel.
- Development and commercialization of a range of insect-based products, with expanded market scale and acceptance.
- Creation of a policy and regulatory framework to support insect farming, and promotion of policy coordination and industry development.

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SMART BEE SDGs page facebook

Keywords

#FOOD SECURITY
#ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY
#SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

PROMOTING UPLAND CLIMATE-SMART AGROFORESTRY SYSTEMS (CSAF) FOR SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOOD DEVELOPMENT, SOIL AND BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

MKCF CALL 8:

Priority Sector:
Agriculture and Rural Development

Duration:

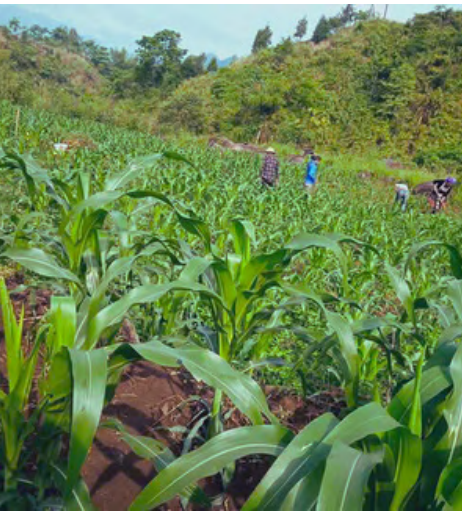
2025/03/20 - 2027/12/19

Project Description

This project promotes the adoption of upland climate-smart agroforestry systems (CSAF) to replace ineffective monoculture practices in Viet Nam and the wider Mekong region. It addresses persistent challenges such as low awareness, limited skills, outdated information, and weak institutional support by providing technical guidance and piloting viable models in representative communities. The initiative engages diverse stakeholders, including households, government agencies, private sectors, and academic institutions. With support from universities, AFoCO, and regional partners, the project fosters collaboration and capacity building to create a foundation for broader CSAF integration across the Mekong region through household-level and market-based approaches.

Objectives

- To promote upland climate-smart agroforestry systems (CSAF) for sustainable livelihood development, soil and biodiversity conservation in Viet Nam and the Mekong region, strengthening regional capacity, academic, and research networks with support from ROK universities and related institutes.



Country of Implementation

Viet Nam/Mekong region

Activities/Components

- Conduct a comprehensive assessment of the current development status of agriculture and forestry (Months 1-6).
- Develop suitability maps (Months 5-9).
- Create technical guidelines for CSAF (Months 5-12).
- Support the construction of nurseries (Months 13-14).
- Establish a demonstration model (Months 13-32).
- Develop a WebGIS platform (Months 19-24).
- Enhance capabilities and raise public awareness (Months 25-32).

Expected Results

- Strengthened cooperation on CSAF development in the Mekong region and enhanced regional understanding of CSAF.
- Strengthened cooperation on CSAF development in the Mekong region and enhanced regional understanding of CSAF.Adoption plans for CSAF at the country level (including action plans, regulations, and development orientations).
- Enhanced collaboration and technology transfer between the ROK and Mekong region countries for CSAF development.
- Increased awareness and knowledge of CSAF's role and best practices in the GMS.
- Strengthened network between academic & research institutes and local communities in the Mekong region, with support from ROK universities, AFoCO, and related institutes for CSAF and rural livelihood development.

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Keywords

#CLIMATE CHANGE
#HOUSEHOLDS WATER
#SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
#CAPACITY BUILDING

MEKONG CONNECT: FACILITATING AGRICULTURAL RESILIENCE AND MODERNIZATION THROUGH COLLABORATION, NETWORKING, EMPOWERMENT, CAPACITY-BUILDING, AND TECHNOLOGY

MKCF CALL 8

Priority Sector:Agriculture and Rural Development

Duration:

2025/03/20 - 2028/03/19

Project Description

Agriculture remains an economic pillar in the Mekong region. However, the sector faces persistent challenges such as low productivity, fragmented supply chains, limited access to modern technologies, and increasing vulnerability to climate change. Outdated farming practices, post-harvest losses, and inefficient market linkages further constrain economic growth and food security. Smart agriculture offers high potential, but adoption remains limited, highlighting the need for structured capacity-building, improved public-private collaboration, and sustainable policy integration.

Implemented by the Mekong Institute, Mekong CONNECT will build on the success of the previous initiative, Sustainable and Smart Agricultural Supply Chain Development in Mekong Countries, and will focus on smart technology adoption and Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs).

Objectives

To enhance the productivity, resilience, and sustainability of agricultural supply chains in the Mekong region by accelerating the adoption of smart technologies and strengthening PPPs through the following actions:

- Strengthen public-private partnerships to drive the adoption of smart technologies and facilitate knowledge transfer at both national and regional levels.
- Build the capacity of government agencies and academic institutions to support farmers and agribusinesses in effectively integrating smart technologies into their operations.
- Pilot smart technologies in Cambodia and Lao PDR, with technical mentorship and support from Thailand and Viet Nam.

Country of Implementation

Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam

Activities/ Components

- PPP Development (e.g. Regional & National Workshops, Stocktaking)
- Capacity Building (e.g. Regional Training Programs)
- Technology Pilot (e.g. National Workshops, Technology Installation, Coaching, Mekong CONNECT Digest)

Expected Results

- Joint initiatives established: Collaborative initiatives involving stakeholders from each participating country are launched to promote the adoption of smart technologies and strengthen partnerships between the private sector, government agencies, and academic institutions.
- Enhanced institutional capacity: Local institutions demonstrate improved capacity to deliver technical assistance and support for smart technology integration, with at least 50% of the proposed action plans successfully implemented by the third year.
- Successful pilot projects: Pilot initiatives in Cambodia and Lao PDR showcase the effectiveness of smart agricultural technologies in improving productivity and sustainability, with 70% of participating farmers and local stakeholders reporting positive outcomes and expressing their intention to continue using the technologies.

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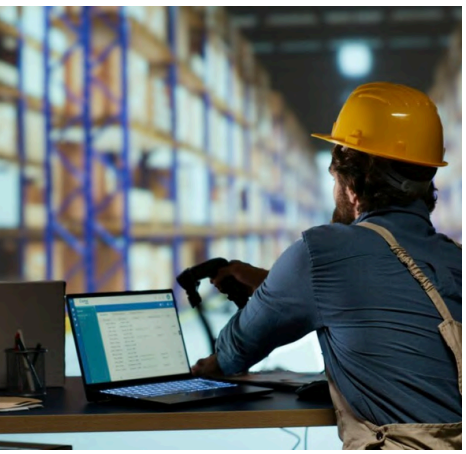
Keywords

#SMART AGRICULTURE
#SUPPLY CHAIN
#PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS
#SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
#CAPACITY BUILDING

THE TECHNICAL SOLUTIONS FOR VIADUCT CONSTRUCTION AIM TO MINIMIZE THE USE OF SAND AND ENHANCE SUSTAINABILITY IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE IN THE MEKONG DELTA SUBREGION (RAPIDVIA4MEKONG)



MKCF CALL 8:
Priority Sector: Infrastructure

Duration:

2025/03/20 - 2027/03/19

Project Description

The Mekong Delta in southern Viet Nam, which borders Cambodia, is a vital socio-economic region. Viet Nam has proposed a comprehensive highway network by 2030, extending to 2050, covering 1,166 kilometers. The network will include three vertical axes connecting provinces to the Southeast and three horizontal axes linking regional seaports and international borders.

The project aims to tackle infrastructure challenges in the Mekong Delta by developing sustainable, rapid construction methods for elevated viaducts. Due to severe sand shortages in the region, traditional highway construction has been hampered, exacerbating environmental degradation.

The proposal offers a hybrid approach combining elevated viaducts with ground-level highways to reduce sand dependency, mitigate erosion, and create a more sustainable infrastructure solution for the Mekong Delta region.

Objectives

To establish a scientific foundation for rapid construction of elevated viaducts in the Mekong Delta, addressing climate change and adapting to upstream Mekong River effects within a sustainable development framework.

Country of Implementation

Cambodia, Lao PDR and Viet Nam

Activities/Components

- Assess infrastructure demands, natural conditions, socio-economic factors, and technical requirements of the Mekong Delta.
- Collaborate with universities and research institutions on road/bridge construction solutions.
- Consult with communities, local authorities, and stakeholders.
- Analyze feasibility studies, pilot projects, and stakeholder inputs.

Expected Results

- Completion of multiple feasibility studies to identify infrastructure needs, gaps, and challenges.
- Development and application of sustainable technical solutions for elevated bridge construction.
- Training engineers in new construction methods; industry recognition and adoption of new technologies.
- Release of evaluation report to guide policy-making and integrate outcomes into infrastructure policies.
- Organize regional seminars, knowledge-sharing, cooperation agreements, and enhanced regional synergy for sustainable infrastructure development.

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Keywords

#GROUND-LEVEL HIGHWAYS
#SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
#CAPACITY BUILDING

DEVELOPMENT OF REGIONAL COOPERATION PROJECT MONITORING DATA CENTER

MKCF CALL 3

Priority Sector:
Information and Communication Technology (ICT)

Duration
2020/12/01 - 2023/11/30

Project Description
Lao PDR currently faces limitations in monitoring ODA projects and lacks systematic, real-time management tools. Moreover, regional cooperation projects, particularly those under mechanisms like Mekong-ROK, were not integrated into a unified supervision and information-sharing system. This resulted in ineffective recording and dissemination of data regarding their contributions to national and regional development. Additionally, public and member state awareness of these cooperation mechanisms was relatively low, and a lack of coordination and synergy among regional projects hindered the maximization of their benefits.

To address these issues, the Department of International Cooperation (DIC) under the Ministry of Planning and Investment (MPI) of Lao PDR led this project. The aim was to expand the existing Official Development Assistance Monitoring System (ODA-MIS.gov.la) and establish a unified, efficient, and multi-national database platform for recording, managing, and publicizing the implementation and effectiveness of regional cooperation projects, especially those within frameworks like the MKCF.

Objectives
To effectively monitor and evaluate regional cooperation project implementation among member countries, enabling the sharing and exchange of lessons learned through a common database platform, aligning with national priorities of Lao PDR and benefiting other member countries.
To develop a Database, aligning with MKCF priorities, and to ensure system sustainability through training and capacity building activities across six countries, particularly on M&E. To draw lessons learned and facilitate exchanges on ODA management and public investment management with member countries to ensure effective regional investment as part of MKCF's priorities.

Country of Implementation

Lao PDR

Activities/Components

Expanded the existing ODA database system (ODA-mis.gov.la) in Lao PDR and developed a "Regional Cooperation Project Monitoring Data Center" to systematically monitor and evaluate regional cooperation projects, including Mekong-ROK cooperation.

The new system aimed to achieve project data collection, performance evaluation, information sharing, and experience exchange through a shared database platform.

The project content included rapid requirements assessment, database design and development, user training, dashboard and website construction, and enhanced project monitoring and evaluation (M&E) capabilities of six countries through regional training and seminars.

Expected Results

- All regional cooperation projects were captured systematically and evaluated timely.
- The Project Implementation Agency (PIA) took practical actions to address issues identified in the mid-term assessment, including establishing a daily petty cash spreadsheet record system, standardizing small cash usage, and committing to formal management guidelines.
- Internal financial reporting was improved with monthly bank statement reconciliation via electronic spreadsheets, with plans for detailed budget item reporting for dynamic expenditure monitoring.
- Despite a budget expenditure of only 35% at the time of assessment, PIA committed to submitting the interim progress report (MTR) by the end of September 2022 to adjust the implementation plan and align with the original project timeline.
- Procurement guidelines, payment voucher templates, and bank reconciliation tools provided by MI were adopted by PIA, gradually standardizing the financial process.

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Keywords

#SUSTAINABILITY
#HUMAN RESOURCE CAPACITY
#MEKONG ROK COOPERATION
#CAPACITY BUILDING

DATA COLLECTION AND PROCESSING FOR THE CAMBODIAN IRRIGATION SCHEMES INFORMATION SYSTEM AND SHARING INFORMATION ON WATER RESOURCES BETWEEN THE MEKONG-ROK

MKCF CALL 4

Priority Sector:

Information and Communication Technology (ICT)

Duration

2022/12/05 - 2024/12/05

Project Description

Recognizing the agricultural and water sectors as top priorities for poverty reduction and food security, the Cambodian government aimed to improve its understanding of irrigated agriculture. The estimated irrigated area varied greatly, and the classification and potential for improvement remained unclear, necessitating precise data for water resource allocation and irrigation planning.

To address this, the Ministry of Water Resources and Meteorology of Cambodia (MOWRAM), with international assistance, developed the Cambodia Irrigation Planning Information System (CISIS), a system containing rich data and a maintenance module for related plans and projects. This project focused on developing a nationwide irrigation and water resources management infrastructure information system, building related infrastructure, and creating an irrigation asset management system, managed by MOWRAM and accessible to all stakeholders.

Objectives

- To conduct training on Arc-GIS and data collection (GIS and Database).
- To develop a nationwide information system referencing all irrigation and water management infrastructures.
- To construct related infrastructure and develop the Irrigation Asset Management System. The system will be managed by MOWRAM and easily accessible for all stakeholders involved in water management and development.

Country of Implementation

Cambodia

Activities/Components

- Provided on Arc-GIS and data collection (GIS and database) for PDWRAM staff in 18 provinces.
- The content covered questionnaires, characteristics of data collection, assessment of infrastructure maintenance requirements, GIS data processing, and mapping to enhance staff capabilities in inventory management and geographic information systems, promoting data collection and information system updates.

Expected Results

- Personnel capacity enhancement: 15 staff members from 18 PDWRAMs are now capable of using GPS and field survey data collection for information updates, and 5 staff members at the MOWRAM central level are able to develop an irrigation plan information system and coordinate data collection activities.
- Complete information system: Development of a reliable and updated geographic reference data information system for irrigation plans, effectively managing and developing water resources in Cambodia, managing statistical data, irrigation, flood control, and other information, and generating clear reports to support short-term, medium-term, and long-term planning and policy formulation.

Results Achieved So Far

- Data collection and ArcGIS training courses were successfully conducted in 18 PDWRAMs from February to May 2023, co-hosted by the director of DPIC and the director of PDWRAM. The training involved 339 personnel with balanced gender distribution.
- The course covered questionnaire explanation, data collection feature analysis, infrastructure maintenance requirement assessment, and GIS data processing and mapping. Post-evaluation, 75% of participants rated the course "very good," and 25% rated it "good," indicating significant improvement in data collection and mapping knowledge and increased awareness of data standards among PDWRAM staff.
- Field investigations were signed in 260 irrigation plans across 18 provinces from mid-April to May 2023. By the end of August, data collection was completed in the six provinces of Banteay Meanchey, Kampong Chhnang, Kratie, Prey Veng, Pailin, and Tbong Khmum, providing crucial data support for the irrigation database and aiding the subsequent development of best practices for irrigation data collection.

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Keywords

#AGRICULTURAL
#WATER RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
#DATA COLLECTION

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY (ICT) FOR ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE AND FOREST FIRE MANAGEMENT IN MEKONG REGION

MKCF CALL 6

Priority Sector:
Information and Communication Technology (ICT)

Duration:

2023/02/15 - 2025/11/15

Project Description

This project showcases technological innovation by deploying Information and Communication Technology (ICT) for enhanced fire prevention, detection, monitoring, and management in Viet Nam and Cambodia, two of the Mekong region's most forest fire-prone countries. The core of the system is a GIS-based platform designed to simulate and predict areas vulnerable to fire, enabling timely preventive interventions. Control measures will be supported by real-time and/or early forest fire detection through foot and drone patrols, facilitating real-time reporting and efficient response deployment.

Leveraging the smart, data-driven forest fire management technological innovation of the Republic of Korea, this initiative will be adapted as a pioneering effort in both Viet Nam and Cambodia, considering their specific local conditions. In-country awareness campaigns, collaborative arrangements, and capacity-building activities will be integral to the project. These efforts will empower both government agencies and the public to collaboratively address forest fires using the ICT-based FFM protocol developed within the project. Lessons learned during implementation will be documented and shared with other Mekong and AFoCO member countries to promote broader adoption of innovative solutions to forest fire challenges. The project aligns with AFoCo's climate change mitigation and sustainable forest management initiatives and is consistent with MKCF environment priorities, aiming to enhance international cooperation within the Mekong region.

Objectives

- To demonstrate an ICT-based forest fire management (FFM) system in Cambodia and Viet Nam.
- To strengthen the capacity of government and stakeholders in both countries to utilize the ICT-based FFM system and develop a rollout plan.
- To foster or enhance international cooperation on forest fires and related threats within the Mekong region.

Country of Implementation

Cambodia and Viet Nam

Activities/Components

Component 1:	Component 2:	Component 3:	Component 4:
Conduct vulnerability assessments for forest-related disasters, piloting in Cambodia and Viet Nam.	To strengthen the capacity of government and stakeholders in both countries to utilize the ICT-based FFM system and develop a rollout plan.	Implement capacity-building activities for key actors from government, the private sector, and communities.	Facilitate knowledge-sharing across the Mekong region.

Expected Results

- FFMS installed at project sites in Cambodia and Viet Nam
- 1st training workshops for government officials completed
- Ongoing development of country-level policies & institutional frameworks
- Strategic forest protection planning underway
- Real-time forest fire monitoring & response capability
- Strengthened policies & institutional capacity of Forest Fire Management
- Regional best practices & knowledge products
- Scalable ICT models for other GMT and AFoCO member countries

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Keywords

#ICT INNOVATION
#FOREST FIRE MANAGEMENT
#AFOCO COLLABORATION
#CAPACITY BUILDING

GUIDELINES AND CERTIFICATION FOR GREEN BUILDINGS IN CAMBODIA

MKCF CALL 2

Priority Sector: Environment

Duration

2021/12/31 - 2024/05/31

Project Description

The project aimed to develop guidelines and certification standards for constructing green buildings (residential and commercial) in Cambodia. These guidelines were to be based on international experience and standards, adapted to the Cambodian context. International green building indices or rating systems were also intended to inform the development of a rating system specific to Cambodia. This system could serve as a marketing tool and foster competition among building and architectural companies. Furthermore, the guidelines were to be supported by public communication and awareness campaigns highlighting the environmental and economic advantages of green building design.

The implementation of Green Building Design was expected to result in reduced energy and water consumption, more efficient use of natural resources, and an improved living environment for urban residents in Cambodia. The project also aimed to support the creation of green jobs by fostering a local building material industry with low embodied energy consumption and promoting energy efficiency applications in building design. Notably, the Green Building Design guidelines were intended to be applicable to low-income housing, considering potential savings in utility bills.

Objectives

To develop guidelines and certification standards for constructing green buildings (residential and non-residential) in Cambodia.

Country of Implementation

Cambodia

Activities/Components

- Developed green building design guidelines and certification processes, including reviewing existing codes, researching and formulating green standards for various building types, analyzing certification mechanisms, proposing institutional arrangement plans, developing operation manuals and training materials, and conducting public and industry consultations.

- Piloted the green building certification mechanism by conducting certification process pilots for residential, commercial, and government buildings in Phnom Penh, collecting feedback, and revising the certification system.

- Enhanced industry and public awareness of green buildings by developing promotional strategies, raising public awareness through media (social media, radio, television) and seminars, and conducting market tests.

- Promoted knowledge sharing with countries in the Mekong River region and South Korea through study tours, peer network construction, and regional knowledge exchange activities.

Expected Results

- Completed the "Analysis and Strategy Report on the Current Situation of Green Buildings in Cambodia," providing suggestions for green building development.
- Formulated the draft of the "Cambodia Green Building Guidelines and Certification System (CamGCGB)," including certification standards and scoring systems for new and existing buildings.
- Formulated the "CamGCGB 10-Year Roadmap" and the institutional operation proposal, proposing three possible models for the certification implementation institution structure.
- Drafted two legal documents (Prakas) to support the implementation and operation mechanism of CamGCGB.
- Conducted CamGCGB pilot certification for new residential buildings and the Ministry of Environment's office building in Phnom Penh, verifying the feasibility of the standards and procedures.
- Organized two technical seminars with the Korea Institute of Civil Engineering and Architecture (KICT), and the CamGCGB standard was revised based on feedback.
- Held multiple introductory and advanced training sessions covering basic green building knowledge, the CamGCGB system, and assessment processes.

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Keywords

#GREEN BUILDING CAMBODIA
#SUSTAINABLE ARCHITECTURE
#ENERGY EFFICIENT BUILDINGS
#ECO-FRIENDLY CONSTRUCTION

ASSESSMENT OF HEAVY METAL CONTAMINATION IN SOIL AND WATER FOR SAFETY CROP PRODUCTION IN MYANMAR

MKCF CALL 4

Priority Sector: Environment

Duration

2022/10/01 - 2025/04/01

Project Description

The project aimed to assess the pollution rate and types of heavy metals in Myanmar's farmlands, considering agricultural practices (inputs, irrigation) and other potential sources like mining, industries, and waste management. Soil and water samples were collected for analysis, and the resulting data was used to develop maps illustrating heavy metal contamination levels and distribution. Recognizing limited existing information in Myanmar, expert meetings were crucial for refining sampling locations and ensuring comprehensive project results. To address staff capacity limitations, two-day training sessions focused on heavy metal characteristics, contamination processes, environmental safety measures, and potential remediation practices. Awareness training for crop producers regarding heavy metal contamination risks and safe investment practices was also planned.

Objective

- To assess the occurrence and amounts of heavy metals in specific regions.
- To share information on the risks of heavy metals to safe crop production.
- To increase public awareness of heavy metal contamination in resources and policy.

Country of Implementation

Myanmar

Activities/Components

Expert meeting: To identify project risk areas, formulate the project plan, discuss soil analysis and mapping results, and evaluate project outcomes.

Baseline investigation, soil and water sampling analysis, and mapping: To collect and analyze soil and water samples and integrate the data into maps, providing fundamental data support for the project.

A two-day training program for farmers and staff: To cover knowledge of heavy metal pollution, soil and water sampling techniques, and nutrient management, enhancing understanding and technical skills.

Expected Results

- Enhanced awareness of heavy metal pollution: To raise awareness among 10% of farmers in the target area regarding heavy metal pollution in soil and water through training and publicity, verified by reports.
- Assessment results: Collection and analysis of 1,200 soil and water samples to obtain accurate heavy metal pollution assessment results, verified by the analysis report.
- Training and conference effectiveness: Holding three conferences and training 350 trainees, with effectiveness verified through records, reports, and participant feedback, enhancing understanding and participation.

Results Achieved So Far

- Three expert meetings were held, defining project goals, sampling areas, and analysis elements, establishing a solid foundation.
- Baseline surveys were completed in parts of the Ayeyarwady and Nay Pyi Taw areas, surveying numerous farmers and collecting extensive information.
- Soil and water sampling analysis and mapping were underway, with significant sample collection in Kyaunggon and Tatkon Townships. Some samples were analyzed, and spatial distribution maps of heavy metals were generated.
- Training activities were successfully conducted, with multiple sessions for farmers and agricultural department staff in target areas covering heavy metal pollution knowledge and soil and water sampling techniques, effectively enhancing participant awareness and skills.

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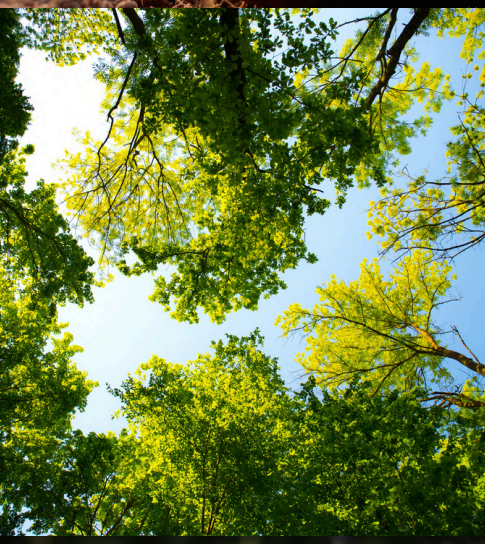
Keywords

#AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES
#WATER RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
#DATA COLLECTED
#CAPACITY BUILDING



LIVELIHOOD DEVELOPMENT FOR SUSTAINABLE FOREST GOVERNANCE IN NORTHERN LAOS

MKCF CALL 5

Priority Sector: Environment

Duration

2022/05/30 - 2025/05/31

Project Description

The recently proposed project will support the government in implementing two key strategies: the National Forestry Strategy, aimed at increasing national forest coverage and promoting sustainable forest management, and the Poverty Reduction Strategy, which focuses on improving the livelihoods of rural communities in Lao PDR.

The government of Lao PDR is piloting REDD+ activities in six provinces in Northern Lao PDR, including Houaphan, Sayyabouly, Luang Prabang, Oudomxai, Luang Namtha, and Bokeo. These provinces are part of Lao PDR's Emission Reduction Programs. Provincial REDD+ Action Plans have already been developed for these areas. However, it remains uncertain whether local institutions will effectively implement REDD+ activities on the ground.

This proposed project aims to support the implementation of REDD+ activities in two of these provinces, Houaphan and Sayyabouly, by initiating and carrying out the activities outlined in their respective Provincial REDD+ Action Plans.

Project Objectives

The main objective of this proposed project is to support the government of Lao PDR in implementing the relevant framework and activities for climate change adaptation and mitigation. This includes promoting sustainable livelihood development in areas highly vulnerable to deforestation and forest degradation.

Country of Implementation

Lao PDR

Activities/Components

Output 1
Create a favorable environment for the implementation of REDD+ activities in Lao PDR and achieve the above goals through activities such as organizing stakeholder workshops, formulating coordination roadmaps, integrating REDD+ activities into the work plans and nationally determined contributions (NDCs) of relevant organizations, and supporting the revision and dissemination of the national REDD+ strategy.

Output 2
Improve livelihoods and reduce the drivers of agricultural deforestation by assessing the capacity gaps of institutions and technicians, providing agricultural extension training, offering financial support for sustainable agricultural development in lowland areas, and establishing village development funds to achieve these goals.

Output 3
Implement climate change mitigation activities by formulating and enforcing village forest management regulations, investing in forest restoration, conducting awareness-raising activities, and encouraging villagers to actively participate in forest management and restoration efforts.

Expected Results

- Enabling Environment for REDD+ Implementation in Lao PDR: Creating the necessary conditions for effective REDD+ implementation, including regulatory frameworks, institutional support, and capacity building.
- Livelihood Improvement and Mitigation of Agricultural Drivers of Deforestation: Enhancing sustainable livelihoods for local communities and addressing agricultural practices that contribute to deforestation.
- Implementation of Climate Change Mitigation Activities: Carrying out activities that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and support climate change adaptation, in alignment with both national and international commitments.

Results Achieved So Far

- The project kick-off meeting was postponed to August 24, 2022. As of August 24, 2023, approximately 42% of the project activities have been completed.
- Regarding administrative work, tasks such as tax registration, revision of the annual work plan and budget, procurement plan, and personnel recruitment have been completed.
- In terms of activity implementation: Approximately 25% of Output 1 has been completed / Approximately 46% of Output 2 has been completed/ Approximately 55% of Output 3 has been completed.

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Keywords

#LIVELIHOOD IMPROVEMENT
#DEFORESTATION
#CLIMATE CHANGE
#CAPACITY BUILDING

ENHANCING COMMUNITY AND SMALL-SCALE WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT IN THE MEKONG REGION (X-WATER)

MKCF CALL 5

Priority Sector: Environment

Duration

2021/12/20 - 2025/05/31

Project Description

The ECSWRM project aimed to promote small-scale water resource management (SWRM) through collaborative knowledge creation and active stakeholder engagement. Its objectives were to:

- Assess local SWRM practices via participatory action research to identify promising knowledge and practices.
- Equip farmer leaders and organizations with SWRM skills and knowledge.
- Advocate for SWRM among policymakers at local, national, and regional levels.

The project combined local wisdom and scientific knowledge to address local water crises. Training and workshops were co-designed by both knowledge users and technical experts. Successful individual and group SWRM prototypes were enhanced through knowledge dissemination using digital communication technologies, allowing ongoing interactions to further leverage knowledge and skills for continuous SWRM improvement.

Project Objectives

- To review and assess the role and capability of local knowledge and small-scale water resource management in addressing water crises in Lower Mekong countries.
- To support and equip local leaders and smallholder farmers with tools, methods, knowledge, and skills related to small-scale water management through training, field visits, and other skill development activities.
- To advocate for small-scale water management among policymakers in Lower Mekong countries.

Country of Implementation

Cambodia, Lao PDR, and Thailand

Activities/Components

Policy Actor Participation and Engagement in SWRM: To foster interaction between local policy actors and the ECSWRM implementation at six sites (two per country), leading to more responsive policy measures for small-scale water resource management (SWRM)

Enhanced Knowledge and Skills of SWRM: To upskill and enhance the knowledge of 150 farmer leaders from six community organizations (two per country) in small-scale water resource management (SWRM) through the implementation of ECSWRM.

Extension of Knowledge Sharing through Farmers' Operating Platforms: To promote three community organizations and twelve individual farms as good practices or prototypes of small-scale water resource management (SWRM) for further learning and knowledge sharing through visits, social media, or other dissemination methods.

Expected Results

- Increased visibility of small-scale water resource management (SWRM) in existing coordinating platforms.
- Improved livelihoods of smallholders, ensuring their viability and well-being.
- Reduced stress on water-related environments and ecosystems through efficient water use, enhancing environmental sustainability.
- The X-Water project identified key trends such as population transitions and diverse livelihoods in agricultural communities across Lao PDR, Cambodia, and Thailand. Research also highlighted challenges in rice farming due to market price fluctuations and high input costs, as well as reliance on rainwater, which leads to water shortages.
- Through stakeholder collaboration involving local governments, farmers, and organizations, stakeholder meetings provided insights into diverse needs and limitations. Issues discussed included concerns about water quality and low product prices in Lao PDR, water supply for rice and canal maintenance costs in Cambodia, and government water management policies in Thailand.

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Keywords

#X-WATER
#WATER RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
#WATER CRISIS
#CAPACITY BUILDING

CAPACITY BUILDING FOR SUSTAINABLE AND CLIMATE CHANGE RESILIENT WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT IN MEKONG RIVER BASIN

MKCF CALL 6

Priority Sector: Environment

Duration

2023/02/28 - 2025/08/28

Project Description

The Ministry of Water Resources and Meteorology (MOWRAM) in Cambodia is mandated with implementing the 2007 Law on Water Resources Management and its associated sub-decrees, particularly the Sub-decree on River Basin Management, which was enacted on July 25, 2015. This sub-decree establishes the framework for creating river basin zones, forming multi-sectoral management committees, and guiding planning processes. MOWRAM's organizational structure includes two Directorates (Administrative and Technical Affairs), eleven departments, one technical service center, and a network of 24 Provincial Departments of Water Resources and Meteorology (PDOWRAM).

Acknowledging the growing impacts of climate change, the government has prioritized stimulating the rural economy as a key strategy for poverty alleviation. In this regard, water resource management, rural infrastructure development, and capacity building have been identified as critical areas requiring immediate attention. To effectively fulfill its responsibilities and achieve these goals, MOWRAM must undergo further strengthening. While Sustainable and Climate Change Resilient Water Management remains a high government priority, enhancing MOWRAM's capabilities is essential.

Objectives

- To acquire knowledge on flood forecasting and warning systems and foster integrated water resources management within the Cambodian portion of the Mekong River basin.
- To develop a comprehensive understanding of water resources in the Mekong region and gain insights into managing water-related challenges posed by climate change.
- To enhance future collaboration in water resources management between Cambodia, other Mekong region countries, and the Republic of Korea.
- Given Cambodia's shared river basin and borders, to provide trainees with lectures on cross-boundary water resources management issues.

Country of Implementation

Cambodia and Republic of Korea

Activities/Components

Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Conduct a preliminary study in Cambodia (5 days) and training in Korea (12 days) for high-level officials, focusing on diagnosing current water issues in the Mekong River basin and enhancing water resources management capacities.	Conduct a preliminary study in Cambodia (5 days), and training in Korea (12 days) for high-level officials, focusing on diagnosing current water issues in the Mekong River basin and enhancing water resources management capacities.	Host a 5-day workshop in Cambodia for past course participants to further enhance water resources management capacities and strengthen the implementation of action plans.

Expected Results

- Capacity Building: Cambodian officials at all levels will gain knowledge in areas such as flood prediction and early warning systems, as well as integrated water resources management. Their management capabilities and comprehensive understanding of water resources in the Mekong region will be enhanced, and they will acquire water management methods to address climate change.
- Cooperation and Exchanges: Future cooperation in water resource management will be strengthened between Cambodia and South Korea, as well as among other countries in the Mekong River region.

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Keywords

#K-WATER
#WATER RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
#CLIMATE CHANGE
#CAPACITY BUILDING

BUILDING A PORTAL OF ECOSYSTEMS AND BIODIVERSITY INFORMATION FOR BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FOR THE MEKONG DELTA

MKCF CALL 6

Priority Sector:
Environment

Duration

2023/02/01 - 2027/01/31

Project Description

The ecosystems of the Mekong Delta play a vital role in supporting global biodiversity and sustaining the livelihoods of local communities. However, they are being lost and degraded more rapidly than any other biome. In particular, wetland areas are shrinking due to the overexploitation and unsustainable use of natural resources, leading to biodiversity loss and endangering many species. Despite this, knowledge about the current status and trends of ecosystem change remains limited. Predicting future changes is further hindered by the lack of baseline data.

This project aims to develop a WebGIS-based database, aligned with international biodiversity information standards, to provide up-to-date data on ecosystems and associated biodiversity in the Mekong Delta regions of Viet Nam and Cambodia. This interactive online management tool is expected to support biodiversity conservation efforts and promote sustainable economic development.

Project Objectives

The overall goal of this proposed project is to support sustainable socio-economic development and biodiversity conservation planning in the Mekong Delta by providing an open, consensus-based database on natural ecosystems and associated biodiversity.

The specific objectives are:

1. To assess the current status of biodiversity—at both ecosystem and species levels—to inform sustainable development and conservation planning in the Mekong region;
2. To provide an updated, standardized database of natural ecosystems and associated biodiversity for ecosystem assessment, biodiversity monitoring, and change detection in the Mekong Delta;
3. To develop a modern WebGIS-based portal and mobile applications to raise awareness and promote broad access to and use of the database.

Country of Implementation

Cambodia and Viet Nam

Activities/Components

Objective 1
Assessment of the current status of biodiversity—at both ecosystem and species levels—to support sustainable socio-economic development and inform biodiversity conservation planning in the Mekong region.

Objective 2
Provision of an updated, standardized database on natural ecosystems and associated biodiversity to support ecosystem and biodiversity assessments, as well as monitoring of changes in the Mekong Delta.

Objective 3
Development of a modern WebGIS-based portal and mobile applications to raise awareness and promote broad access to and use of the biodiversity database.

Component 1:
Data collection and revision

Component 2:
Field surveys

Component 3:
Building a Database

Component 4:
Building WebGIS-based portal

Component 5:
Training and information dissemination workshops

Expected Results

- **Digital Databases**: These databases will compile all collected information on ecosystems and associated biodiversity in the Mekong Delta. They will feature the most up-to-date data available, offering a comprehensive understanding of the current state of the natural environment. The databases will serve as valuable tools for sustainable ecosystem and biological resource planning and management, including socio-economic development, conservation efforts, and monitoring of ecosystem changes and biodiversity trends within the Mekong Delta and the broader Mekong Basin.
- **WebGIS-Based Portal**: The project will develop a website, Ecobank Mekong, which will integrate the biodiversity databases mentioned above. The portal is designed for broad access and will serve various stakeholders, including the general public, international and national agencies, research and educational institutions, and individual scientists. A detailed report on the current status of ecosystems and biodiversity in the Mekong Delta will also be published and made publicly available through the Ecobank Mekong portal.

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Keywords

#BIODIVERSITY
#WEBGIS DATABASE
#SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
#ECOSYSTEMS DATABASE

RICE STRAW-BASED CIRCULAR ECONOMY FOR IMPROVED BIODIVERSITY AND SUSTAINABILITY (RICEECO)

MKCF CALL 6

Priority Sector: Environment

Duration

2023/02/01 - 2026/01/31

Project Description

The widespread practice of in-field rice straw burning after harvest stems from significant challenges including labor shortages, straw's low economic value, and insufficient knowledge about sustainable management alternatives. This environmentally harmful practice causes biodiversity loss, depletes soil nutrients, and creates health hazards, making it a priority concern for both governments of Cambodia and Viet Nam. Despite this recognition, burning persists due to poor integration of straw in rice value chains, lack of appropriate technologies, and various issues in crop management, market systems, and stakeholder preferences.

Our solution proposes developing a rice straw-based circular economy (RiceEco) that increases rice income while reducing carbon footprints through multiple integrated approaches. The project will implement sustainable rice contract farming alongside innovative straw utilization methods—creating bio-fertilizers, bio-plastics, and supporting urban agriculture—all enhanced by ICT-based logistics tools. These interventions, guided by proven business models and targeted behavior change strategies, will ultimately upgrade agrifood value chains, enhance biodiversity and ecosystem services, and improve farmer incomes. The framework developed through this cross-country knowledge exchange will provide a scalable model for Southeast and South Asian regions while contributing substantially to MKCF priority sectors, particularly Agriculture and Rural Development and Environment.

Project Objectives

To foster strengthened cooperation in the Mekong region, particularly between Viet Nam and Cambodia, through the creation and development of a cooperation framework and learning alliances that facilitate knowledge exchange and capacity building on rice-based circular economy initiatives.

To enhance rice-based value chains through the establishment and development of rice straw-based circular economy business models in collaboration with farmer cooperatives and private entrepreneurs, while promoting increased adoption of sustainable rice straw management options by building local stakeholder capabilities and generating evidence-based policy recommendations.

Country of Implementation

Cambodia, Viet Nam/Southeast Asia

Activities/Components

To conduct experiments measuring biodiversity impact of reduced straw burning, perform life cycle assessments, and quantify carbon footprint data of straw circular economy initiatives.

Establish a cross-country cooperation framework and form learning alliances to facilitate knowledge exchange and capacity building on rice-based circular economy (CE) practices.

To deliver farmer training and demonstrations enhancing sustainable straw management capabilities while conducting policy analysis to develop evidence-based recommendations for scaling up initiatives.

To analyze value chains for identifying appropriate technologies and business models while developing comprehensive databases and maps of straw resources and value chain factors and developing rice straw-based CE business models.

Expected Results--Milestones as of April 2025

- Two field experiments were conducted in Prey Veng, Cambodia in 2024 and Can Tho, Viet Nam in 2023. A protocol for carbon footprint from rice production was developed.
- A value chain workshop was organized in June 2023. A survey assessed straw management status in Can Tho, Viet Nam (1000 households 10 Oct 2023 to June 2024). Three technologies (straw collection, mushroom cultivation, and composting) were adopted. Additionally, an ICT tool, EasyFarm (for farmers and service suppliers), has been developed. Five business models were piloted in Viet Nam and Cambodia.
- A total of 21 events were conducted, including farmer training and field demonstrations (14 events), field demonstrations (4 events), and farmer field days (3 events). A total of 1814 farmers, members of farmer cooperatives, and related stakeholders are directly trained and witnessed sustainable rice straw management. Three policy briefs were developed and issued by the Department of Crop Production (DCP), Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) of Viet Nam. Six stakeholder engagement events were organized.
- Built on the existing learning alliances in Viet Nam and Cambodia, the RiceEco project organized 12 multi-stakeholder learning events in Viet Nam and Cambodia to explore plans and policies for rice straw management.
- In addition, RiceEco activities reach to Thailand and international agencies and delegates such as APF delegates, World Bank, USAID, US Ambassador, New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade delegates.

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Keywords

#COMMUNITY
#RICE FARMERS
#POLICY MAKERS
#RICE STRAW CIRCULAR ECONOMY

INTEGRATED RIVER BASIN MANAGEMENT OF THE MEKONG BASIN TRIBUTARY FOR ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE

MKCF CALL 7

Priority Sector: Environment

Duration:

2024/03/01 - 2027/02/28

Project Description

The Mekong region's watersheds have experienced significant degradation due to factors such as war, logging, mining, population growth, hydropower and irrigation development, and deforestation for agriculture. In some areas, more than half of the original forest cover has been lost, resulting in increased soil erosion, flash floods, and a decline in ecological goods and services.

To mitigate disaster risks, effective flood management and soil conservation are essential for reducing community vulnerability. From an economic perspective, enhancing forest productivity and minimizing associated losses will support socio-economic development. Environmentally, protecting ecosystems is crucial for ensuring the long-term sustainability of both communities and the river basin.

Objectives

Long-term Objectives:

- To improve flood resilience and reduce damage and losses, thereby fostering social and economic development within the river basin.
- To strengthen watershed management in the context of climate and land-use changes by integrating nature-based solutions (NBS).
- To enhance policy direction for sustainable watershed management from the national to the sub-national level.

Short-term Objectives:

- To identify flood hazards using field-based and modeling approaches, incorporating updated datasets and strengthening community resilience.
- To assess soil erosion and water quality in order to determine sustainable river basin management measures.
- To integrate nature-based solutions (NBS) into watershed management to improve flood risk mitigation, reduce soil loss, and enhance biodiversity within the river basin.
- To build capacity for integrated river basin management at both national and sub-national levels.
- To develop and mainstream a policy brief for multi-stakeholder engagement from the sub-national to the national level.

Country of Implementation

Cambodia / Mekong region

Activities/Components

The work packages are interrelated and mutually reinforcing:

- **WP1**: Quantify the need for enhanced flood resilience at the community level through pilot projects.
- **WP2**: Conduct comprehensive management from field to basin scales to monitor soil erosion and water quality.
- **WP3**: Implement nature-based solutions (NBS) technologies to demonstrate their effectiveness within the basin.
- **WP4**: Strengthen stakeholder capacity and promote policy impact through training sessions, seminars, and other engagement activities to support policy formulation and implementation.

Expected Results

- **Disaster Risk Reduction**: Enhance flood management and soil erosion control to reduce community vulnerability to environmental hazards.
- **Socioeconomic Improvement**: Increase forest productivity while minimizing environmental damage and economic losses.
- **Environmental Sustainability**: Protect ecosystems to ensure the long-term viability of both communities and the watershed.

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Keywords

#WATERSHED MANAGEMENT
#NATURE BASED SOLUTIONS
#FLOOD RESILIENCE
#SUSTAINABLE RIVER BASINS
#MEKONG ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

A COMMERCIAL PROTOTYPE FOR THE LIFE CYCLE OF SOLAR PANELS IN MEKONG NATIONS

MKCF CALL 7

Priority Sector: Environment

Duration:

2024/03/01 - 2026/02/28

Project Description

Prince of Songkla University (PSU) is dedicated to pioneering innovation, academic excellence, and societal development. It aspires to become a global research university with a significant impact on sustainable development at the local, regional, and global levels. PSU's mission centers on fostering academic leadership and groundbreaking innovation through focused research, particularly aimed at advancing southern Thailand. The university seeks to build strong connections between society and the global community to drive national progress.

PSU is committed to educating world-class graduates by promoting academic excellence alongside essential 21st-century skills, integrity, discipline, and a spirit of public service. This comprehensive education, grounded in practical experience, prepares students to be well-rounded and globally competent. Embracing multiculturalism and the principles of a sufficiency economy, PSU strives to become a learning society that offers accessible knowledge resources to the public, ultimately serving as a key driver for the development and advancement of southern Thailand and the nation.

Objectives

- To address the growing issue of solar waste in Thailand, Viet Nam, and Cambodia.
- To assess the current scope and forecast future volumes of solar waste.
- To implement effective strategies for solar waste management.
- To align with national strategies for renewable energy transition while addressing associated waste challenges.
- To support regional priorities in Southeast Asia for managing the environmental impact of solar energy expansion.
- To align with MKCF priorities by promoting sustainability, waste management, and innovation.

Country of Implementation

Cambodia, Thailand and Viet Nam

Activities/Components

Activity 1:

Field Study: Conduct a detailed field study in Songkhla (Thailand), Viet Nam, and Cambodia to assess current solar photovoltaic (PV) waste and estimate future waste volumes.

Activity 2:

Development of Mobile Apps: Design, develop, and deploy Android and iOS applications.

Activity 3:

Recycling Facility Establishment: Establish solar PV waste recycling facilities in Thailand utilizing thermal and chemical treatment processes.

Activity 4:

Organizing Educational Awareness Events: Conduct events to raise public awareness on solar PV waste management and recycling practices.

Expected Results

- Enhanced awareness among stakeholders regarding solar photovoltaic (PV) waste management.
- Application of the developed commercial prototype, with a target of 30% adoption by stakeholders in the research area.
- Promotion of new or improved solar photovoltaic recycling practices.

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Keywords

#SOLAR WASTE MANAGEMENT
#SUSTAINABLE ENERGY TRANSITION
#GREEN INNOVATION
#RENEWABLE WASTE SOLUTIONS
#CIRCULAR ECONOMY

INVESTIGATION OF MICROPLASTICS, CONTAMINANTS OF EMERGING CONCERN AND THEIR RISK ASSESSMENT TO FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE IN THE MEKONG RIVER BASIN

MKCF CALL 7

Priority Sector: Environment

Duration:

2024/03/01 - 2027/02/28

Project Description

The Mekong River Basin faces a critical threat from plastic pollution, particularly microplastics (MPs) and contaminants of emerging concern (CECs). Alarmingly, the Mekong River is among the largest contributors to global marine plastic pollution, accounting for approximately 95% of the plastics entering the world's oceans. Despite the scale of this environmental challenge, comprehensive research remains limited.

To address this urgent issue, a three-year project titled "Investigation of Microplastics, Contaminants of Emerging Concern, Their Risk Assessment, and Management for Fishery and Aquaculture in the Mekong River Basin" is proposed.

Objectives

- To conduct a comprehensive evaluation of microplastic and organic substance pollution in the water environment of the Mekong River Basin in Thailand, and Viet Nam.
- To propose adaptive management solutions to address these environmental challenges.
- To create a comprehensive database of microplastics (including size, shape, density, and polymer composition) in water, sediment, and fish, as well as associated CECs (such as bisphenol A, DDTs, and PAHs) in water and sediment in the Mekong Basin (Thailand, and Viet Nam).
- To assess pollution levels of microplastics and specified organic substances in the study area's water environment.
- To develop effective solutions for managing microplastic pollution in the Mekong River Basin in Thailand, and Viet Nam.

Country of Implementation

Thailand and Viet Nam

Activities/Components

Component 1:

Vulnerability assessments related to forest-related disasters piloted in Cambodia and Viet Nam.

Component 2:

Development of an application to monitor forest fires and other forest-related disasters as input for policy planning and implementation.

Component 3:

Capacity building for key actors from government, the private sector, and local communities.

Component 4:

Knowledge sharing across the Mekong region.

Expected Results

- Gained insights into the fate and distribution of microplastics (MPs) in water, sediment, and fish within the Mekong River Basin (Thailand, and Viet Nam).
- Evaluated contaminants of emerging concern (CECs) associated with MPs in water and sediment, establishing correlations between MPs and CECs in the environment (Thailand, and Viet Nam).
- Identified suitable environmental management strategies through risk assessments of MPs and associated CECs on fisheries and aquaculture (Thailand, and Viet Nam).
- Proposed and tested initiatives to reduce microplastic emissions and implemented technical solutions for treating microplastic pollution in the aquatic environment.
- Increased public and local government awareness of the hazards posed by MPs and CECs, while promoting the 3R (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) approach to waste management.
- Fostered regional and international institutional collaboration to address plastic pollution effectively in the Mekong River Basin.

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Keywords

#PLASTIC
#WATER RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
#SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
#CAPACITY BUILDING
#MICROPLASTICS
#AQUATIC EMVIRONMENT

MAPPING THE PLASTIC LITTER LEAKING INTO THE WATERWAYS OF MEKONG COUNTRIES AND PROVIDING INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS FOR EFFICIENT WASTE MANAGEMENT

MKCF CALL 7

Priority Sector: Environment

Duration:

2024/03/01 - 2026/05/31

Project Description

Plastic leakage in the Mekong region continues to threaten vulnerable communities, exacerbated by climate change and unmanaged waste practices. Despite global initiatives, regional responses remain fragmented, lacking standardized monitoring methods and coordinated action plans. Most interventions are isolated, leading to redundancy and inefficiency.

This project proposes a technical working arrangement focused on Science, Technology, and Information (STI) to develop harmonized, evidence-based solutions. Leveraging AIT's experience in Thailand, Viet Nam, Lao PDR, and Cambodia, the initiative will identify key gaps in existing systems and foster collaboration among stakeholders. With an emphasis on detection, mitigation, and prevention, the project aims to build replicable models and enhance local capacity in alignment with global plastic pollution policies.

Objectives

To apply Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) solutions to address plastic leakage in the Mekong region by engaging stakeholders across sectors—including public, private, academic, NGO, and government entities—to strengthen plastic waste management at both national and regional levels. The project promotes sustainable solutions by leveraging STI and fostering collaboration between public and private actors.

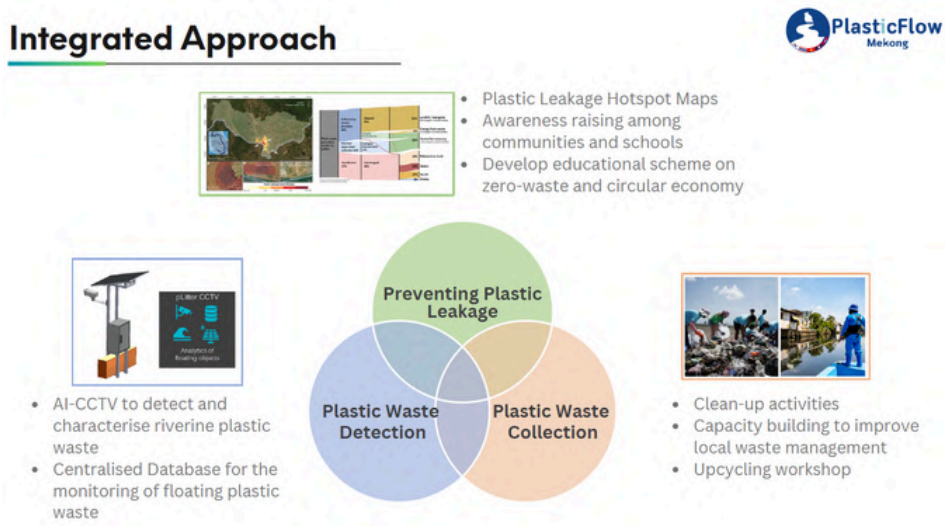
The key objectives are structured under three thematic areas:

- Plastic Leakage Prevention
- Plastic Waste Detection and Monitoring
- Plastic Waste Collection

Country of Implementation

Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand, and Viet Nam

Activities/Components



Results Achieved

- Trained over 100 participants on pLitter AI-CCTV, the mobile app, and plastic leakage mapping.
- Installed 10 new AI-CCTV cameras across Thailand (2), Cambodia (2), Viet Nam (2), and Lao PDR (4).
- Updated the mobile app to support four additional local languages—Thai, Khmer, Vietnamese, and Lao—for improved usability.
- Compiled a comprehensive report on existing policies, tools, and technologies for monitoring plastic waste in the Mekong region.
- Developed a dashboard to record and analyze plastic waste data.
- Showcased the project at various international and national platforms, including four international events (GPIP, KOMEC-Korea, KOMEC-Lao PDR) and six national events (Mahidol, TH workshop, SOS2024, Chula workshops, KOMEC-Thailand).

[THAILAND]

- A monthly community recycling market was established.
- 175 households (14% of the target area) participated in training activities on waste and environmental management.
- 157 youth took part in the children's zero-waste camp, collectively helping to collect over 139 kilograms of residual waste in the community.
- 120 households (10%) joined the community recycling market, resulting in the collection of 13.7 tons of recyclable materials.
- 39 households (3.1%) engaged in home composting, reducing organic waste by an estimated 20 kilograms per household per month.
- Six types of environmental awareness signboards were installed across the community to promote sustainable waste practices.

Results Achieved

[Viet Nam]

- Signed an MoU with a local school in Can Tho, engaging over 500 students, 43 teachers, and 20 representatives from local authorities, universities, and organizations.
- Created 14 educational murals around the school yard to promote youth awareness of environmental issues.
- Trained 110 students and 43 teachers on zero-waste principles.
- Organized a 'Zero-Waste Day' event with 600 participants, including students and parents.
- Collected 1,027 kg of plastic waste from the litter trap installed in the river.

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Keywords

#PLASTIC POLLUTION
#PLASTIC LEAKAGE
#SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
#STI FOR SUSTAINABILITY
#WASTE MANAGEMENT
#REGIONAL COLLABORATION
#ZERO WASTE CAMP

INTEGRATION OF KNOWLEDGE HUB FOR WATER AND ENVIRONMENT IN THE MKCF FRAMEWORK

MKCF CALL 7

Priority Sector: Environment

Duration:

2024/03/04 - 2026/03/03

Project Description

This initiative aims to strengthen the resilience of Lower Mekong Countries (LMCs) through enhanced capacity in climate resilience, integrated water resources management, and disaster risk reduction. The project proposes integrating a Knowledge Hub within the MKCF framework to facilitate knowledge exchange and support for the Water and Environment sector of MKCF projects. The Hub will primarily: provide technical assistance and consultancy to PIAs, offer capacity building, organize and implement milestone events, and promote ROK-Mekong cooperation in global platforms.

Objectives

- To obtain sustainable water resources and environmental management in the Mekong region through continuous technology exchanged between the ROK and Mekong experts.
- To provide open-access database on water and environment projects of the ROK and Mekong experts.
- To enhance climate resilience of the Mekong region through strengthened water and environment projects.
- To strengthen diplomacy and cooperation among the ROK and Mekong countries through water projects.

Country of Implementation

Republic of Korea

Activities/Components

- KOMEC offers technical advisory services and holds triannual workshops for PIAs implementing MKCF-funded water and environment projects.
- The Hub will annually provide capacity building programs tailored to the technical needs of the PIAs to strengthen their competencies.
- The Hub aims to enhance the technical capacities of PIAs implementing MKCF-supported projects in the water and environment sector by identifying their specific technical needs.
- By utilizing the Hub, KOMEC continuously promotes the ROK-Mekong partnership in international forums to raise awareness of ongoing projects and initiatives.

Expected Results

- Enhance the technical capacity and knowledge of PIAs involved in MKCF-supported projects.
- Improve access to databases and information on ongoing water resources management projects in the Mekong region.
- Strengthen dialogue and collaboration between the ROK and Mekong countries.
- Raise international awareness of ongoing initiatives in the Mekong region within the global water community.

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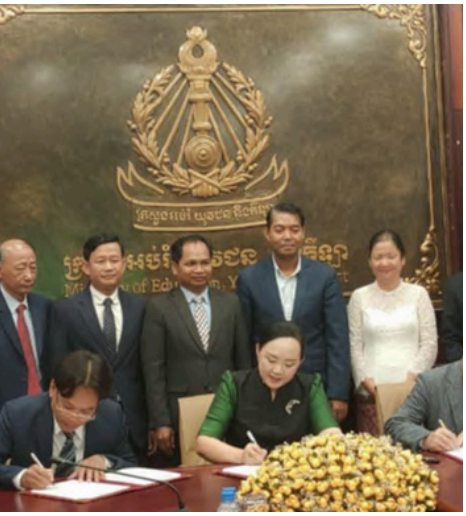
Keywords

#KOREA-MEKONG WATER CENTER
#KNOWLEDGE HUB
#TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
#CAPACITY BUILDING
#MILESTONE EVENT
#CLIMATE RESILIENCE

RAIN SCHOOLS FOR CLIMATE RESILIENCE IN THE MEKONG REGION

MKCF CALL 8
Priority Sector: Environment



Duration:

2025/03/20 - 2027/03/19

Project Description

This project aims to enhance climate resilience in the Mekong region by scaling up Rain Schools and promoting rainwater harvesting as a sustainable water solution. Key activities include establishing a Rainwater Training and Research Center (RTRC), installing rainwater filtration and distribution (RFD) systems in schools, developing MOOCs and mobile applications, and organizing Rain Camps and an international conference.

Through capacity building, technical training, and international collaboration, the project will empower students, engineers, and policymakers. Aligned with the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport's (MoEYS) goal of establishing 1,000 Rain Schools, the initiative ensures long-term sustainability and positions the RTRC as a global hub for rainwater education and innovation.

Objectives

- To improve access to clean and sustainable water sources in schools by installing rainwater harvesting systems.
- To build local capacity for rainwater management through targeted training and community engagement.
- To integrate educational tools, such as MOOCs and mobile applications, to expand access to learning opportunities.
- To strengthen regional collaboration and long-term climate resilience through shared knowledge and networks across Mekong countries.

Country of Implementation

Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand, Viet Nam / Mekong region

Activities/Components

- Training and Capacity Building: RAC and SNU will provide training for engineers, NGOs, and educators from Mekong countries, focusing on rainwater harvesting and sustainable water management practices.
- Educational Outreach: Educational materials will be developed, international Rain Camps organized, and conferences hosted to raise awareness and generate interest in rainwater management.
- Technical Implementation: Rainwater harvesting systems will be installed in schools to ensure a sustainable supply of clean water for students and surrounding communities.

Expected Results

- Enhanced Capacity for Rainwater Management: One fully equipped training facility established to train engineers and key personnel across the region.
- Improved Knowledge and Practices: One MOOC and two mobile applications developed and promoted to provide accessible, practical training in rainwater management.
- Increased Clean Water Supply: Rainwater harvesting systems installed in six schools, ensuring sustainable access to clean drinking water for students and surrounding communities.
- Strengthened Regional Cooperation: Two international conferences and three Rain Camp events conducted to foster knowledge exchange and collaboration between Mekong countries and the Republic of Korea.

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Keywords

#CAPACITY
#WATER RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
#SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
#CAPACITY BUILDING
#RAIN WATER

ESTABLISHMENT OF SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT PLATFORM IN THE LOWER MEKONG REGION

MKCF CALL 8:
Priority Sector: Environment

Duration:

2025/03/20 - 2028/03/19

Project Description

This project aims to establish a comprehensive groundwater monitoring platform in the Lower Mekong Region (LMR) by integrating physical monitoring infrastructure with an online data system. It addresses critical water management challenges in Cambodia, Lao PDR, and Viet nam, with planned expansion into Thailand and Myanmar through the installation of monitoring networks and the development of a regional groundwater model.
Beyond its technical components, the project promotes cross-border collaboration between Mekong countries and the Republic of Korea, facilitating knowledge exchange and joint problem-solving. By strengthening regional cooperation and enabling data-driven decision-making, the project contributes to the long-term goal of sustainable groundwater management across the LMR.

Objectives

- Sustainable Water Resource Management: Strengthen groundwater monitoring and conservation practices to prevent resource depletion and contamination.
- Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change Adaptation: Develop strategies to mitigate groundwater depletion and address climate-induced impacts.
- Regional Cooperation and Institutional Strengthening: Promote cross-border data sharing and policy harmonization to support joint groundwater governance.

Country of Implementation

Cambodia, Lao PDR and Viet Nam (extending to Thailand and Myanmar)

Activities/Components

- Implementation of a long-term groundwater monitoring program in Cambodia, Viet Nam, and Lao PDR.
- Development of a dynamic groundwater management model using GIS and multi-year data.
- Establishment of a regional groundwater information platform to facilitate data sharing and collaboration.
- Capacity building for stakeholders in groundwater monitoring and adaptive management.
- Creation of a comprehensive groundwater database to support annual trend analysis.
- Promotion of regional collaboration for adaptive groundwater governance in partnership with the Republic of Korea.

Expected Results

- Pilot groundwater monitoring was conducted at four locations, with baseline data established.
- Numerical models were developed to support evidence-based decision-making and resource planning.
- A regional data center and online platform were established for continuous monitoring and information access.
- Stakeholder capacity was enhanced in monitoring, data interpretation, and sustainable groundwater management.

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Keywords

#CLIMATE CHANGE
#WATER RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
#SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
#CAPACITY BUILDING
##DATA CENTER

STRENGTHENING CAPACITY ON INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT UNDER CLIMATE CHANGE ASPECT IN THE MEKONG COUNTRIES

MKCF CALL 8:
Priority Sector: Environment

Duration:

2025/03/20 - 2027/03/19

Project Description

Yangon Technological University (YTU) is committed to providing structured education to develop skilled engineers, specialists, and researchers essential to national development. Fulfilling this mission requires a strong emphasis on the educational environment, program design, assessment, and quality assurance systems to ensure excellence in teaching and research.

To cultivate high-quality educators, it is vital to promote the application of theoretical knowledge to real-world challenges and to foster collaboration with national and international partners for effective knowledge exchange. In response to this need, the project aims to strengthen the capabilities of teachers, researchers, and officers in the water resources sector through practical knowledge transfer, ultimately benefiting government agencies and academic institutions alike.

Objectives

- To build the capacity of regional staff, educators, and researchers in sustainable water management by integrating a critical climate change perspective.

Country of Implementation

Myanmar, Viet Nam and Republic of Korea

Activities/Components

- Collaborative design of training programs.
- Field visits to Myanmar, Viet nam, and the Republic of Korea for real-world exposure.
- Installation of a weather station at Nagmoeyeik Dam (Yangon Region) to collect real-time climate data.
- Delivery of training programs in the Republic of Korea and Myanmar on climate change, hydrology, hydraulic modeling, and disaster mitigation.
- Organization of two workshops to analyze the current water sector situation and present project outcomes.

Expected Results

- An increased number of research publications by staff.
- Enhanced staff capacity in education, research, and English language skills.
- Improved knowledge and technical capabilities of stakeholders in climate change analysis, flood inundation mapping, and sustainable water resource management through training and knowledge sharing.
- Improved water resource management practices.
- Strengthened regional resilience to climate change.

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Keywords

#EDUCATION
#THEORETICAL KNOWLEDGE
#SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
#CAPACITY BUILDING
#CLIMATE DATA
#DAM

BRIDGING THE FINANCING GAP FOR PLASTICS CIRCULARITY INFRASTRUCTURE THROUGH BANKABLE PROJECTS, POLICY, AND KNOWLEDGE SHARING

MKCF CALL 8:

Priority Sector: Environment

Duration:

2025/05/09 - 2027/11/19

Project Description

Led by the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI), this project addresses critical financing gaps in plastic waste management across the Mekong region. Rapid urbanization and economic growth have significantly increased plastic waste, much of which remains mismanaged—ending up in open dumpsites, landfills, or leaking into the Mekong River. This pollution poses serious threats to ecosystems, public health, and local economies, particularly for communities dependent on fisheries, agriculture, and tourism.

To support the transition toward a circular plastic economy, the project focuses on mobilizing financing for middle- and downstream waste management solutions, such as recycling infrastructure and recovery facilities. It will develop two bankable plastic waste management projects, generate practical policy recommendations, and facilitate regional knowledge sharing. By strengthening financing capabilities and enabling scalable solutions, the project contributes to ASEAN's circular economy goals and aligns with the Mekong–ROK Cooperation Fund (MKCF) priorities on environmental protection and sustainable development. It also reinforces regional cooperation between the Mekong countries and the Republic of Korea.

Objectives

Overall Objective

- To develop a functional market for recycled plastic waste that enables the large-scale financing of plastic waste management infrastructure, thereby contributing to plastics circularity in the Mekong region.

Specific Objectives

- To enhance the readiness of Mekong countries to mobilize financing for plastics circularity.
- To improve the bankability of plastic waste initiatives by identifying and mitigating project-specific investment risks.
- To generate practical policy recommendations based on real-world project financing challenges and solutions.
- To support the development of critical infrastructure for plastics circularity, such as collection hubs and recycling facilities.
- To strengthen the capacity of municipal authorities and stakeholders in financing and managing circular plastic solutions.
- To facilitate regional knowledge sharing to replicate successful financing models and promote broader policy alignment.

Country of Implementation

Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand, and Viet Nam

Activities/Components

- Collaborate with the BMA to identify projects, screen developers, and improve project bankability.
- Conduct market exploration to attract potential investors.
- Provide policy recommendations to address financing gaps in plastic waste management.
- Develop case studies and organize seminars to enhance regional understanding of plastic circular financing.

Expected Results

- Two bankable plastic waste management projects are developed.
- Policy recommendations are formulated to close financing gaps.
- Regional knowledge sharing on mobilizing financing for plastic circularity is enhanced.

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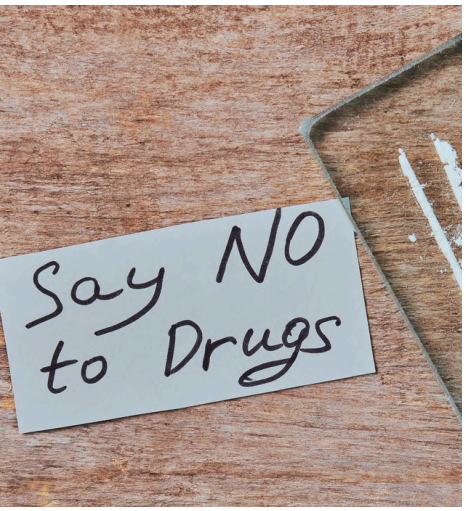
Keywords

#PLASTICS CIRCULARITY
#PLASTICS WASTE MANAGEMENT
#SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
#CAPACITY BUILDING
#FINANCING GAPS

BUILD UP TO MEKONG'S OWN DRUG CONTROL CAPACITY



MKCF CALL 8:

Priority Sector:
Non-Traditional Security Challenges

Duration:

2025/03/20 - 2027/03/19

Project Description

Traditional drug control policies that focus solely on crackdowns lead to constant shifts among drug producers, distributors, and users, without addressing the root causes. A more comprehensive approach is needed to enhance drug control capabilities by tackling the region's underlying challenges.

SPO is committed to identifying and addressing the most urgent drug-related issues in the Mekong region by developing practical and effective solutions. This approach leverages established cooperative networks to drive sustainable improvements in regional drug control efforts.

Objectives

- To expand safe storage and disposal facilities by assessing the current status of drugs and precursors in Cambodia and Lao PDR, and to increase disposal capacity by upgrading facilities for faster and more efficient processing.
- To strengthen national and regional drug control capabilities, thereby reducing drug-related social instability, mitigating cross-sectoral risks, minimizing unnecessary social costs, and enabling more focused investment of material and human resources.

Country of Implementation

Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand and Republic of Korea

Activities/Components

- Drugs and precursors are transported to safe storage, incinerated, and subjected to environmental impact assessments.
- Management and safety training is provided for government and private sector personnel.
- The construction of drug storage and disposal facilities is supported, and forensic capabilities are enhanced.
- A unified drug handling manual for the Mekong region is developed and implemented.
- Meetings are organized to coordinate anti-drug policies and strategies across countries.

Expected Results

- A drug-free society is promoted, and regional anti-drug cooperation is strengthened.
- Over 60% satisfaction is achieved among residents and officials.
- Drug smuggling to South Korea is reduced by more than 20%.
- Drug storage and disposal capacity is increased by over 30%.
- More than five meetings are held for policy coordination and experience sharing.
- Drug quantities in high-risk areas are reduced by over 20% through safe disposal.

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Keywords

#DRUG CONTROL
#SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
#CAPACITY BUILDING
#CROSS-COUNTRY

MEKONG INSTITUTE

Mekong–ROK Cooperation Fund

ABOUT MEKONG INSTITUTE

The Mekong Institute (MI) is an intergovernmental Organization owned and operated by the six countries of the Greater Mekong Subregion—Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, Viet Nam and Yunnan province and Guangxi Autonomous Region of the People's Republic of China. MI promotes regional development, cooperation, and integration through capacity development programs and projects across three thematic areas: Agricultural Development and Commercialization, Trade and Investment Facilitation, and Sustainable Energy and Environment.

ABOUT MEKONG-ROK COOPERATION FUND (MKCF)

Following the launch of the Mekong–Republic of Korea (ROK) Partnership in 2011, the Mekong–ROK Cooperation Fund (MKCF) was established in 2013 to support development initiatives in the five Mekong countries: Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, and Viet Nam. Between 2013 and 2020, the Fund concentrated on six key sectors. Under the current Mekong–ROK Plan of Action (2021–2025), the Fund's priority areas have been expanded to include culture and tourism, human resource development, agriculture and rural development, infrastructure, information and communication technology (ICT), environment, and non-traditional security challenges. The Fund is administered by the Mekong Institute (MI), which acts as the Fund Coordinator. In this role, MI is responsible for reviewing Expressions of Interest (EOIs) and full project proposals, overseeing fund disbursement, monitoring project implementation, providing technical guidance, conducting site visits, and maintaining close coordination with relevant government stakeholders in the Mekong countries.

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