



**MEKONG  
INSTITUTE**

# Mekong Forum 2017

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**PRESS REPORTS**



**AEC**  
**BUSINESS**  
THE NATION Saturday, July 15, 2017 [nationmultimedia.com/business](http://nationmultimedia.com/business) [nationmultimedia.com/aec](http://nationmultimedia.com/aec)

## Mekong Institute shifts its aid focus

SUMALEE SUWANNAKORN  
THE NATION  
KHON KAEN

THE Mekong Institute is revisiting its performance targets following geo-economic changes in the Greater Mekong Subregion amid Asean's economic integration.

"MI has to promote and develop training and assist in knowledge for its member countries, while solving social problems," Naronchai Akrasanee, chairman of a committee supervising MI, said yesterday.

The new focus on social assistance with knowledge training in GMS countries was a shift from economic aid, he said at the Mekong Forum on "New Geo-economics: Reshaping the Future of the GMS?" in Khon Kaen.

Workers have been driven back to their own countries, which leads to unemployment problems in Thailand's neighbouring countries while Thailand faces a labour shortage, he said. MI's next move not only aims at GMS countries, but also Asean countries, he said, pointing to a key strategic point - the Korean Peninsula. If anything happens, Asean's landscape will be changed.

Watcharas Leelawath, executive director of MI, said social problems now come as the forefront work in GMS countries and discussion will be needed with them to jointly attack social problems.

Societies find difficulties to continue development and more collaboration will be required to fight them in manufacturing, services and Mice (meetings, incentives, conferences and exhibitions), he said.

Puripan Bunnag, director of domestic mice at the Thailand Convention and Exhibition Bureau, said if the bureau joins MI to hold meetings, seminars and training, the Mice market will be effectively broadened, given the broad and potential customer bases in these countries.

"MI holds the Mekong Forum every year and this is the market that can make connection with GMS and Asean countries," he said. "If we see that Thailand cannot grow alone, its growth will be driven together with Asean countries, while promoting the exchange of products, exhibitions and booths for business decision-making and joint economic development."

Naronchai said global development is centred not only in Western countries, but also Asean's neighbours, particularly when economic power has been shifted to China.

"We see China growing into the world's economic power, overtaking the United States, whose policy changes after its new president.

"Our development plan in trade and investment must be set to accord with China, the economic power that is in closest proximity to GMS countries," he said.

Given the Sino-Thailand, Sino-Laos and Sino-Myanmar railway projects, China plays a role in infrastructure development in GMS and CLMV (Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam) countries, he said.

Thailand should produce for trade and make a big improvement in infrastructure, he said.

MI will be the intermediary, coordinating with all countries to produce people to drive development for the six GMS countries with international legal issues in particular, Watcharas said.

## The Nation

Country of Publication:

Thailand



## Post Today

Country of Publication:

Thailand





 **Vientiane Times**  
The First National English Language Newspaper  
WEDNESDAY JULY 19, 2017 ISSUE 165

## Mekong Institute focuses on a strengthened GMS community

THAILAND (MI) -- The Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) takes the limelight as it proactively puts forward a competitive pace and place in the global arena to promote its capacities and resources.

Global events have evident impacts to the Region's development, particularly in enhancing cooperative ties. Mekong Institute's (MI) Mekong Forum 2017, which was held in partnership with Thailand Convention and Exhibition Bureau (TCEB) and the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) on July 14 in Khon Kaen, Thailand, aimed to look more closely at the future of the GMS, particularly the promotion of inclusive development and progress.

More than 200 development practitioners, senior policymakers, business and civic leaders, and academics attended and shared their expertise on geo-economics and how it shapes and affects society.

Chairman of the MI Steering Committee, Dr Narongchai Akrasanee stressed the important role of the GMS countries in developing a collective economy and focusing on infrastructure projects - with China providing significant support through its One Belt One Road Initiative. He also mentioned that human capacity resources should be improved on a large scale.

In addition, former Malaysian Ambassador to the World Trade Organisation, Datuk Manickam Suppermaniam, emphasised that strengthening regional ties and avoiding conflicts will substantially contribute to the development of the Region. As an example, he cited that the success of Asean is attributed to the collective efforts of encompassing its differences and exploring complementary issues to develop a market-based system, and that the GMS is rapidly advancing to the same direction.

Furthermore, the Forum's sessions provided collective agreement to further boost collaborative efforts from both the public and the private sectors in order to put the GMS upfront in terms of global trade and investment. This should promote regional integration and sustainable growth for all its members.

MI's role in coordinating with its six member countries - Cambodia, China (Yunnan and Guangxi provinces), the Lao PDR, Myanmar, Vietnam, and Thailand proves to be a crucial position in assuring that the Region comes together to link its members to each other and to the rest of the world. They will be able to further assist one another to foster a greater sense of community for security and prosperity.



Keynote and session speakers gather together as the forum starts.

## Vientiane Times

Country of Publication:

Lao PDR

<https://www.mekongeye.com/2017/07/17/mekong-institute-shifts-its-aid-focus/>

# Mekong Institute shifts its aid focus

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## Mekong Institute shifts its aid focus





The screenshot shows the website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand. The header includes the Thai coat of arms and the text "Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand" and "กระทรวงการต่างประเทศ". The navigation menu includes: Home, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Policy, Consular Services, Thailand and ASEAN, Media Center, Information for Visitors to Thailand, Thailand Today, and Diplomatic Corps. The breadcrumb trail is "Home » news3". The main content area is titled "news3" and features a list of categories: Top Stories, Press Releases, In Focus, Social & Cultural News, and Saranrom Radio. The main article is titled "Press Releases : Thailand to Assume Mekong Institute Council's Chairman from 5 August 2017 – 4 August 2019". The article text reads: "During 12 – 14 July 2017, Mrs. Suphatra Srimaitreephithak, Director-General of the Thailand International Cooperation Agency (TICA), Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand, attended the Mekong Council Meeting 1/2017 and assumed the Mekong Institute Council Chairmanship from 5 August 2017 – 4 August 2019 at the Mekong Institute in Khon Kaen, Thailand. At the same time, Myanmar's chairmanship will end August 2017. The Director-General also attended the Mekong Forum 2017, organized under the theme "New Geo-Economics: Reshaping the Future of the GMS" at Pullman Khon Kaen Raja Orchid Hotel. Many Thai Government Agencies, including the Thailand International Cooperation Agency (TICA), Department of International Economic Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Commerce, Khon Kean Province have benefited from the Mekong Institute as an organization conducting projects and activities in order to develop and empower human resource capacity building of government officials in the Greater Mekong Sub region (GMS). Over the years, Mekong Institute's activities have linked the GMS out

## Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand

<http://www.mfa.go.th/main/en/news3/6886/79227-Thailand-to-Assume-Mekong-Institute-Council%E2%80%99s-Chai.html>



MEKONG INSTITUTE  
INDEPENDENT NEWS NETWORK

การเมือง เศรษฐกิจ บันเทิง กีฬา ต่างประเทศ อาชญากรรม ภูมิภาค สังคม ราชสำนัก

### ขอนแก่นเจ้าภาพประชุมแม่โขงฟอรัม2560

ข่าวภูมิภาค วันศุกร์ที่ 14 กรกฎาคม พ.ศ.2560 0:00 น.

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MEKONG FORUM 2017

## Independent News Network

<http://www.innnews.co.th/shownews/show?newscode=797199>

Country of Publication:

Thailand





25<sup>th</sup>  
JULY

หน้าแรก   หมวดข่าว   เว็บบอร์ด   เกี่ยวกับเรา   ติดต่อเรา   **เรื่องทุกข**

จำนวนการเยี่ยมชมเว็บไซต์ 1396 ครั้ง

July 22, 2017

ประชุมแม่โขงฟอรัม ๖ ประเทศ ยกกระดับภาพรวมเศรษฐกิจ เว้นภาษีศุลกากรสร้างโอกาสธุรกิจ



ขอนแก่น เจ้าภาพประชุมแม่โขงฟอรัม ๒๕๖๐ มุ่งเน้นยกระดับภาพรวมทางเศรษฐกิจเชื่อมโยงใน ๖ ประเทศลุ่มแม่น้ำโขง ขณะทีจีนเสนอตัวเจ้าภาพขับเคลื่อนเศรษฐกิจแบบเชื่อมโยง "วีซีเอ็ม" มั่นใจ งดเว้นภาษีศุลกากรเป็นโอกาสของกลุ่มนักธุรกิจ โดยเฉพาะการค้าชายแดนและสินค้าภาคเกษตร

## Korat Daily News

<http://www.koratdaily.com/blog.php?id=5907&like=1>

Country of Publication:

Thailand





newspaper » แม่โขงฟอรัม2017 ยกระดับภาพรวมศก.(กรอบน้ำม)

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|  <p><b>ไทยรัฐ</b><br/>ครบวัน</p> <p>Thai Rath (Mid-Day)<br/>Circulation: 1,000,000<br/>Ad Rate: 1,600</p> | <p><b>Section:</b> กีฬา/-</p> <p><b>วันที่:</b> อังคาร 18 กรกฎาคม 2560</p> <p><b>ปีที่:</b> 68      <b>ฉบับที่:</b> 21728      <b>หน้า:</b> 22(ล่าง)</p> <p><b>Col.Inch:</b> 8.79      <b>Ad Value:</b> 14,064      <b>PRValue (x3):</b> 42,192      <b>ศิลปิน:</b> ชาว-ดำ</p> <p><b>หัวข้อข่าว:</b> แม่โขงฟอรัม2017 ยกระดับภาพรวมศก.</p> |
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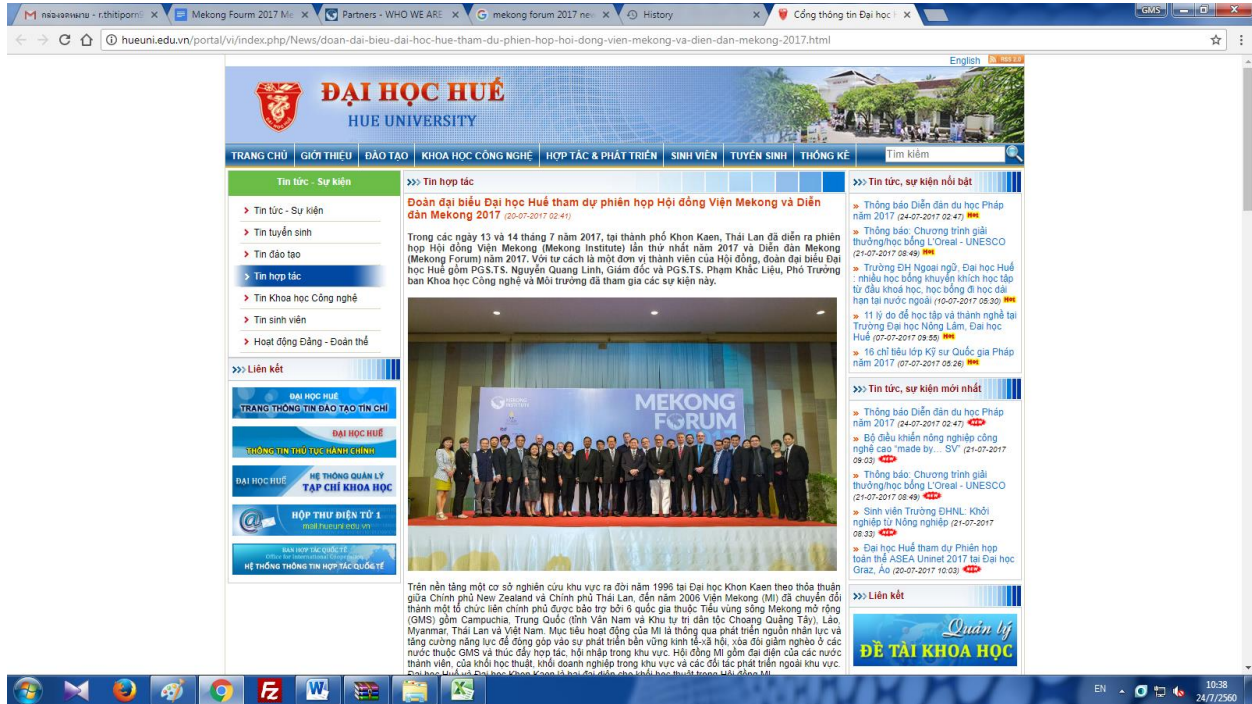
**แม่โขงฟอรัม 2017**  
**ยกระดับภาพรวมศก.**

นายณรงค์ชัย อัครเศรณี นายกสภามหาวิทยาลัยขอนแก่นเปิดการประชุมผู้นำด้านเศรษฐกิจและนักวิชาการ ในกลุ่มประเทศอนุภูมิภาคลุ่มแม่น้ำโขง(Mekong Forum 2017) โดยมีคณะทูตานุทูต เศรษฐกิจและนักวิชาการจากประเทศลุ่มแม่น้ำโขง ประกอบด้วย จีน เมียนมา ลาว ไทย เวียดนาม และกัมพูชา เข้าร่วม นายวัชรภูมิ สีละวัฒน์ ผอ.สถาบันความร่วมมือเพื่อพัฒนาเศรษฐกิจลุ่มน้ำโขงประเทศไทยกล่าวว่า การดำเนินการร่วมกันในด้านจากทั้ง 6 ประเทศ มีความคืบหน้าและมีโครงการที่เชื่อมโยงกันเพิ่มมากขึ้น โดยเฉพาะด้านการค้าและการลงทุน ทุกฝ่ายต่างแสวงหาโอกาสและการเชื่อมโยงแนวทางการทำงานด้วยกัน ดูได้จากแนวทางการพัฒนาระบบขนส่งที่มีความชัดเจนในการเชื่อมต่อกัน.

**Khon Kaen University**

<https://www.kku.ac.th/newspaper/V.php?l=en&q=P0006193>

Country of Publication: Thailand



The screenshot shows the website of Hue University (ĐẠI HỌC HUẾ) with a news article about the Mekong Forum 2017. The article title is "Đoàn đại biểu Đại học Huế tham dự phiên họp Hội đồng Viện Mekong và Diễn đàn Mekong 2017". The text describes the event held in Khon Kaen, Thailand, on July 13-14, 2017, involving the Mekong Institute Council and the Mekong Forum. A group photo of the university's delegation is included. The sidebar contains various news items and a "Liên kết" (Links) section with a "ĐỀ TÀI KHOA HỌC" (Academic Topic) banner.

## HUE University

<http://hueuni.edu.vn/portal/vi/index.php/News/doan-dai-bieu-dai-hoc-hue-tham-du-phi-en-hop-hoi-dong-vien-mekong-va-dien-dan-mekong-2017.html>

Country of Publication:

Vietnam