



## **Mekong - ROK Cooperation Fund (MKCF)**

### *Announcement of the 7th Call for MKCF Regional Project Proposals*

#### **Introduction**

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 the implementation of cooperation activities initiated by the Mekong countries and the ROK under the Mekong – ROK cooperation framework.

The MKCF encourages cooperation in seven priority sectors outlined in the “Mekong – Han River Declaration for Establishing Partnership for People, Prosperity and Peace” adopted by Mekong-ROK Leaders during the 1<sup>st</sup> Mekong – ROK Summit in 2019.

The Fund provides grant for projects that are of regional in nature (Benefits more than one country in the Mekong region - Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Viet Nam and Thailand). Such project is aligned on the priorities of the country to address national issues that facilitate regional integration process. It can be implemented in a single country. However, benefits should be shared among the countries in the Mekong region and the ROK.

#### **Criteria**

##### (1) The MKCF’s Seven Priority Areas

The Fund provides grants to support catalytic and innovative activities in the seven priority sectors: (1) Culture and Tourism, (2) Human Resources Development, (3) Agriculture and Rural Development, (4) Infrastructure, (5) Information and Communication Technology (ICT), (6) Environment, and (7) Non-traditional Security Challenges.

##### (2) Examples of the projects

<b>Sector</b>	<b>Examples of the projects</b>
<b>(1) Culture and Tourism</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Cooperation in preservation and restoration of cultural heritage sites</li> <li>▪ Expansion of youth education in culture and arts and creative economy.</li> <li>▪ Cooperation on Cultural tourism development, including creative industries on art, music including cultural exchanges and cultural entrepreneurship.</li> <li>▪ Cooperation Projects to promote cultural and creative industries</li> </ul>

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- Cooperation Projects to empower cultural professionals and enhancing networks, knowledge and exchange among creative agents among Mekong and ROK
    - Smart tourism - use of digital tools and services to advance sustainable and smart tourism, sustainable investment promotion in Mekong tourism sector.
  - (2) Human Resources Development**
    - Promotion of regional cooperation in education and skill development
    - Facilitation of safe labor migration within the Mekong region
    - Development of cooperative alliance among the Mekong countries for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) / Career and Technical Education (CTE)
    - Capacity building for MSMEs and entrepreneurs to enhance job opportunities and successful trade and investment environment in the Mekong countries
    - Enhancing skills for post Covid-19 recovery
    - Greening TVET, new skills, upskilling/reskilling on emerging industry needs.
  - (3) Agriculture and Rural Development**
    - Development of regional agricultural value chain
    - Strengthening regional agriculture supply chains
    - Cooperation in Mekong Agricultural productivity improvement
    - Rural finance and market development
    - Digital rural transformation for agricultural development in the Mekong region
  - (4) Infrastructure**
    - Capacity building in regional project management related to infrastructure (road, power communication etc.)
    - Cooperation projects on critical infrastructure development in rural areas for agriculture development
  - (5) Information and Communication Technology (ICT)**
    - Cooperation in application of ICT for regional disaster risk management / climate change adaptation (e.g. early warning system)
    - Estimation of crop production with ICT
    - Development of regional agriculture market information system
    - MSME Digitization and Fintech
    - E-commerce & paperless trade and customs facilitation
    - Development of alliance with the Mekong countries on ICT infrastructure / regional connectivity
    - ICT application in Post Covid-19 recovery
    - ICT application and broadband connectivity in rural and remote areas, application of ICT in disaster management, application of ICT in production sectors (industry, agriculture) and transport and logistics.
  - (6) Environment**
    - Cooperation in water resources management, rain water harvesting, etc
    - Cooperation in Disaster management for natural hazards
    - Cooperation in sustainable management of natural resources
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**(7) Non-traditional Security Challenges**

- Climate change mitigation and adaptation measures
- Sustainable transport and logistics
- Promotion of ESG in production sectors
- Green infrastructure for climate resilience in the Mekong
- Use and application of traditional knowledge in natural resources management, water conservation and management etc.
- Cooperation in clearance of explosive remnants of war, illegal drug trafficking, human trafficking
- Cooperation in prevention of in security areas to address transnational crime, terrorism and violent extremism
- Cooperation in cyber security to build an open and secure cyber space
- Safe Mekong, Combating Illicit Trafficking, surveillance techniques and transboundary coordination etc.

**(3) Eligible Requirements of Proponent:**

- Government agencies/Autonomous Organization from Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Viet Nam, Thailand (CLMVT) and organizations from the ROK.
- Non-governmental organizations, academic institutions, and training institutes from CLMVT and the ROK.
- International Organizations, including UN Agencies, and other International Non-Governmental Organizations having operating offices in the Mekong countries and ROK.
- Experience in implementing development projects for at least 5 years.
- Assistance to individuals will not be provided.

**(4) Budget / Duration**

- The contribution of the Fund per project proposal is minimum of 300,000 USD and maximum of 1,000,000 USD.
- The fund encourages projects promoting 3-way (triangular) or 4-way (quadripartite) collaboration with other donors, including but not limited to the Mekong River Commission (MRC), Japan, United States (US), Australia, New Zealand, Germany, Canada etc. Extra budgetary funds should be leveraged, when needed, to facilitate such projects.
- The fund provides grants for joint activities with a regional or international entity, formalized through a cooperation agreement and is considered as regional.
- Activities which are not eligible for funding include construction of buildings and payment of rent or utilities.
- The time frame of the project should be 2-3 years.

**Expression of Interest (EOI) Submission**

- The proponent is required to submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) when applying for the MKCF.
- The EOI should contain all the required components.
- The EOI as per the prescribed format should be submitted to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the respective country by **May 15, 2023**
- International Organizations, including UN Agencies, and other International Non-Governmental Organizations having operating offices in the Mekong countries and ROK should submit the EOI to ROK MOFA by **May 15, 2023**.
- Only shortlisted EOIs will be contacted for the next phase of application process.

Country	Focal point in the MOFA	Email
<b>Cambodia</b>	Ms. Angkearbos Hong	<a href="mailto:hongangkearbos@gmail.com">hongangkearbos@gmail.com</a>
<b>Lao PDR</b>	Ms. Southida Vongphachanh	<a href="mailto:mekong.dialoguepartners@gmail.com">mekong.dialoguepartners@gmail.com</a>
<b>Myanmar</b>	Dr. Htuann Naung	<a href="mailto:srcd.myanmar@gmail.com">srcd.myanmar@gmail.com</a>
<b>Viet Nam</b>	Mr. Do Phan Linh	<a href="mailto:mekong.mofa@gmail.com">mekong.mofa@gmail.com</a>
<b>Thailand</b>	Ms. Nguyen Thu Tra	
	Ms. Lalitpat Kerdrung	<a href="mailto:lalitpat.k@mfa.go.th">lalitpat.k@mfa.go.th</a>
<b>ROK</b>	Mr. Seoyoung Park	<a href="mailto:rokmekong2014@mofa.go.kr">rokmekong2014@mofa.go.kr</a>

**Contact**

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