



# In Sharing, We Learn

In celebration of 25 years of service, MI will feature 12 alumni who are making inroads in their respective fields. As agents of change, these government, business, research, student, private sector, and business representatives—who were trained by MI—are enhancing capacities, strengthening policies, raising awareness, promoting economic growth, and inspiring change in Cambodia, P.R. China, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam.

Their stories reflect MI's core mission of cementing regional connectivity through partnerships, knowledge-sharing, and advocacy for the benefit of all in the GMS.

For January 2021, meet Dr. Thazin Han, a hardworking and dedicated scientist under the Department of Research and Innovation from Myanmar's Ministry of Education. Tapping her expertise as a scientist and policy maker, MI has invited Dr. Thazin to share what she has gained from MI and, more importantly, how she is passing on what she has learned to counterparts in Myanmar.

## How did you become part of the MI family?

I registered as a PROSAFE training participant in 2019 because I wanted to better understand and develop policies on food safety emergency management. This is so I can contribute to the formation of food safety guidelines that will help us mitigate, prepare, respond, and recover from food hazards and risks.



A year later—MI who was aware of my background as a national Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) policy developer—invited me as a resource person to introduce practical approaches to Myanmar government, academic, and business representatives on how to collaboratively develop a strategic Science, Technology and Innovation Plan to make more efficient public services and enhance livelihood.

## How has MI helped you in your professional evolution?

MI provided me opportunities. The opportunity to learn about food safety, to meet and work with different people from the GMS, and more importantly, to share what I know about STI and learn from others. Through MI, I also learned other approaches that can strengthen research and development, as well as smoothen coordination and linkages among diverse stakeholders. I have also picked up good facilitation techniques from MI.

## What has MI taught you on a personal level?

That knowledge does not grow in a vacuum and sharing what we know is our responsibility in building a strong country and subregion. MI also opened my eyes to the value of learning different development perspectives and approaches. Through the multi-cultural exposure provided by MI in their trainings, I was also able to take home best practices that would best fit food safety and STI development in my country.

## What do you think is the value of MI to Myanmar?

Partnership in knowledge-building and sharing. MI helps build our capabilities by teaching us systems that we can apply in our field of work. MI staff also motivates us to make a difference through the guided implementation of action plans in our home countries. This type of learning and sharing culture stimulates growth and innovation. It also makes us more interested to work with other GMS nationals so we can continue to build on what we know not just for the benefit of our country but the region, as well.

