

E - BRIEFING

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Issue 1

Development for Regional Cooperation and Integration

INSIDE

- Khammouane Agricultural Development Cooperative Established
- New Market Opportunities for Myawaddy Maize Farmers
- End-of-Crop Year Celebration and Learning Workshop
- Strategy Training to Cooperative Members

EWEC (SDC) PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Khammouane Agricultural Development Cooperative Established

The Khammouane Agricultural Development Cooperative was officially established on January 9, 2017 at a meeting chaired by the Vice Governor of Khammouane Province, Mr. Bounmy Phimmasone, and attended by twenty-five cooperative members and other participants.



The cooperative is expected to boost economic growth in the local agricultural sector. The chairperson stressed the importance of policy and funding support to strengthen the cooperative and help it become sustainable. At the end of the meeting, a new administrative committee was elected to operate the cooperative.



New Market Opportunities for Myawaddy Maize Farmers

To explore new market opportunities for Myawaddy maize farmers, the EWEC project introduced them to maize traders from Tet Kone and the Sunjin Feed Factory on January 2 to 4, 2017. This was the first time the traders and feed factory visited Myawaddy where they discussed purchasing requirements and processes and also checked the quality and volume of the maize.



■ EWEC (SDC) PROJECT ACTIVITIES

End-of-Crop Year Celebration and Learning Workshop

To pave the way for better cooperation in the future, a year-end workshop was held in collaboration with the Khe Sanh Coffee Association (KCA) on January 12 to 13, 2017 in Huong Hoa district of Quang Tri province, Vietnam. The workshop assessed the 2016 crop year and promoted information exchange, cooperation and learning among SMEs and Farmer Groups (FGs) and developed the direction for the years to come.

In attendance were representatives of SMEs and FGs who were involved in the linkage project, as well as local authorities and non-government organizations such as KOICA-sponsored Happiness Program, Plan in Quang Tri, and the EMEE Project of World Vision.



Looking back over the past three years since the project's establishment:

- 22 FGs were established and 591 members joined
- 2016 saw a successful crop-year with higher prices although productivity was lower, due to weather conditions and farmers' cultivating practices
- 15 FGs linked with SMEs for a transaction volume of 3,389 tons of coffee cherry which brought USD 1,324,264 in total revenue
- Added value per FG member was more than USD 170
- According to the assessment of SMEs and relevant parties, the project interventions in the past three years made great contributions to the development of the coffee sector
- International markets have given special attention to KCA because of the improved quality.
- It is expected that 2017 will see stable market prices and higher productivity if existing achievements are maintained and strengthened.

Strategy Training to Cooperative Members



A three-day intensive training was organized at the Department of Industry and Commerce (DIC) in Khammoune Province, Lao PDR from January 17 to 19, 2017 to transfer knowledge on organizational development strategies and to build up participants' capacity to apply management, planning and analytical tools to their organizations. Chaired by Mr. Thongxay

Mangnormek, Director of DIC, the training was attended by thirteen cooperative members and six government officials.



■ WHAT'S NEW

MI Visits New Zealand to Strengthen Partnerships in Food Safety

Led by the Executive Director, Dr. Watcharas Leelawath, MI delegates visited New Zealand from January 22 to 27, 2017 to meet with existing and potential partners for the Regional Food Safety Project (FSP) funded by the New Zealand Aid Programme.



The study visit was organized to allow the MI team to better understand the current food safety situation and systems adopted in New Zealand, and seek possible areas of collaboration with relevant organizations to effectively implement the MI-FSP. MI delegates met with more than twenty individuals composed of government representatives, as well as food safety researchers and practitioners. [Read more>>](#)

Ambassadors' Visit to MI

H.E. Enno Drofenik, the Ambassador of Austria to Thailand, Myanmar, Lao PDR and Cambodia, H.E. Brendan Rogers, the Ambassador of Ireland to Thailand, H.E. Staffan Herrström, the Ambassador of Sweden to Thailand, Lao PDR and Myanmar, and H.E. Ben King, the Ambassador of New Zealand to Thailand, Cambodia and Lao PDR, visited MI on January 30, 2017 to discuss on the areas of common interest and potential development collaboration in the GMS region.



■ OTHER ACTIVITIES

Call for Submission of Project Concept Papers!

The Mekong - ROK Cooperation Fund provides grants for projects which address the needs in the Mekong Region. Submission Deadline: February 12, 2017. [Read more>>](#)



MEKONG INSTITUTE

123 Mittraphap Rd., Muang District
Khon Kaen 40002, THAILAND
Tel. : +66(0) 43-202-411 to 2
Fax.: +66(0) 43-343-131
Email: infor-