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TRAINING/WORKSHOP/SLV ACTIVITIES



MI Opens Search for Mekong Institute Young Scholars

MI has opened the call for applications to the Mekong Institute Young Scholars (MIYS) Program. The MIYS Program aims to develop the human resource capacity of those in government service by providing a six-month structured learning opportunity at the MI Headquarters in Khon Kaen.

The program is open to government officials, staff and members of the academe from Cambodia, P.R. China, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam. The MIYS Program is supported by the Government of the People's Republic of China. [Read more.](#)

MI Kicks Off Capacity Building Activities on Sustainable Freight Transport and Logistics with Myanmar Training

Two trainings were organized in Yangon, Myanmar as part of the capacity building activities of MI's project on *Sustainable Freight Transport and Logistics in the Mekong Region*. The first training on *Basic Accounting and Financial Management for SMEs in Freight and Logistics Sector* was held on January 8, 2018, while the second on *Basic Logistics Management* was from January 8 to 12. Some 60 senior and mid-level government officials from relevant agencies joined the trainings.

The project is jointly implemented with the German Agency for International Cooperation and the Greater Mekong Subregion Business Council.



Saibua Rice Mill Urges Formation of GAP Farmer Groups

Saibua Rice Mill in Khammouane, Lao PDR held meetings on Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) farmer group formation and dissemination activities on GAP standardization as part of its plan to work with more GAP farmer groups.

Held on January 20-22, 2018, the meetings were attended by 137 farmers from Kokpathone, Nonghang and Dongxok, Phonexay villages. Also present were 43 students and professors from the National University of Lao and the University of Sydney, Australia who joined the meetings as part of their structured learning visit on agro-production and processing.



The meeting aimed to encourage the farmers' application of GAP standards on certified products to be supplied to Saibua Rice Mill. At the end of the meeting, some 116 farmer households were organized as official GAP rice-producing groups. Saibua Rice Mill will also be holding another meeting with GAP farmer groups in Dongtai village to revise the previous year's GAP implementation before the start of the seasonal cultivation.

As part of the EWEC Project's phasing out phase, project stakeholders like rice millers take on a more active role in the implementation of activities, with the project team providing monitoring and support. Other rice mills including Phonesavanh, Sysamai, Soulivanh, Bounmy and Chanthavong will also be organizing similar farmer group formation meetings.

Study on Cross-Border Trade Facilitation On Track

The RLED-EWEC team is currently facilitating the conduct of an in-depth study on cross-border trade facilitation of agricultural products and inputs in twin provinces of the East-West Economic Corridor namely, Savannakhet and Quang Tri, Khammouane and Nakhon Phanom, and Kayin and Tak provinces. The study, which commenced this month, seeks to identify solutions to non-tariff barriers negatively affecting cross-border trade.

On January 4-6, 2018, interviews were carried out with representatives of the public and private sectors, including representatives from the trading corporation in Quang Tri and the Chambers of Commerce and Industry in Savannakhet.

Following the interviews, workshops will be organized in February and March to share the study results to relevant parties in the concerned countries and initiate discussions on actions and joint commitment for easier cross-border trading.



EWEC Myanmar Leads Pre-workshop on Establishment of Border Economic Committee (BEC)

The EWEC Myanmar Field Office, in cooperation with the Department of Consumer Affairs, led the conduct of a pre-workshop on *Establishment of Border Economic Committee (BEC)* on December 29, 2017 in Hpa-an Township.

Attended by 15 participants from both public and private sectors, the workshop set out to discuss ways on the formation of a BEC as agreed in the Joint Trade Commission between Thailand and Myanmar, as well as identify focal and supporting departments. Following the deliberations, it was agreed that the Department of General Administrative will serve as the focal department. Follow up activities will begin once approval is received from the Chief Minister of Kayin State.



Pre-Survey on Contract Farming Organized in Myawaddy

The EWEC Myanmar Field Office, together with Bio-Supreme Company and Mya Htay Lywe Linn, led the conduct of a pre-survey on contract farming for rainfed maize on January 23-24, 2018.

The pre-survey, which covered 13 villages in the northern and southern parts of Myawaddy, aimed to introduce the benefits of contract farming and subsequently identify interested farmers. Staff from Bio-Supreme Company also shared the progress on ongoing contract farming activities in Hpa-an Township. A detailed survey on contract farming and village observation will commence in February.



MI Shares Experiences in Local Development Work

Ms. Jutamas Thongcharoen, Program Manager of the Agricultural Development and Commercialization Department, shared MI's experiences in working with local stakeholders in a seminar on Strengthening Capacity of Local Administration Officials, organized by the Department of Trade Negotiations, Ministry of Commerce, Thailand. The seminar was held on January 9-11, 2018 in Khon Kaen.



MI Executive Director Talks About Economic Cooperation

Dr. Watcharas Leelawath, MI Executive Director, talked about economic cooperation in ASEAN and the Greater Mekong Subregion in a forum organized by the Naval War College on January 9, 2018 in Khon Kaen. He addressed over 100 officers from the navy, air force, army as well as private sector representatives.



MI Meets with New Zealand Ambassador

The MI team, led by Dr. Watcharas Leelawath, paid a courtesy visit to H.E. Mr. Peter Rider, New Zealand Ambassador to Thailand on January 15, 2018 in Bangkok. They were welcomed by Mr. James Andersen, Deputy Head of Mission. The team also met with Mr. Brent Rapson, First Secretary for International Development, to discuss the extension phase of the MI-Food Safety Project supported by the New Zealand Aid Programme.



New Zealand Students Visit MI

Twenty-four students from six universities in New Zealand visited MI on January 22, 2018 as part of a study tour organized by the Victoria University of Wellington. Dr. Watcharas Leelawath and Ms. Maria Theresa Medialdia, Director of the Agricultural Development and Commercialization Department, presented MI's initiatives in the New Zealand Aid Programme-supported Food Safety Project.



MI Joins Seminar on Green Freight in Vietnam

Mr. Madhurjya Kumar Dutta, Director of the Trade and Investment Facilitation (TIF) Department, and Mr. Sa-nga Sattanun, Program Manager of TIF, joined the National Seminar on Green Freight and Final Workshop on Green Freight Labeling Criteria for Vietnam on January 26, 2018 in Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam.

Over 80 stakeholders and delegates from public and private sectors joined the workshop, which aimed to present Vietnam's experience in developing a national green freight program and the findings from the Green Freight Assessment Report.



UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

FEBRUARY

6

Training on Basic Accounting for SMEs in Freight Transport and Logistics Sector (Cambodia)

6-8

Training on Basic Logistics Management (Cambodia)

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