

WHAT'S INSIDE

Stronger Postharvest Management Systems, Better Gains from High Value Crops

Thailand, Vietnam and Mekong Institute Host 2nd Lancang-Mekong Business Forum

MI Sets Out to Enhance Demand-Driven Migration Governance

MI and Lancang-Mekong Partners Strengthen Technology and Innovation Policies

MI Concludes Training Course on Project Management and Evaluation of Sub-Regional Development Projects with S&E Workshop



TRAININGS/WORKSHOPS/SLV ACTIVITIES



Stronger Postharvest Management Systems, Better Gains from High Value Crops

Mekong Institute (MI), with funding support from the People's Republic of China, conducted the Postharvest Management System in Fresh Horticultural Produce regional training at the MI Training Center from November 4 to 15, 2019. About 21 representatives from the government, academic and private sectors were trained to safely prolong the shelf life of fruits and vegetables through innovations in packaging, transportation and storage technologies. [Read more.](#)



Thailand, Vietnam and Mekong Institute Host 2nd Lancang-Mekong Business Forum

Mekong Institute, together with the Ministry of Commerce of the Royal Government of Thailand, Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Ho Chi Minh Branch), introduced innovations and bridged business partnerships among agriculture food processing groups at the 2nd Lancang-Mekong Business Forum. Funded by the Lancang-Mekong Cooperation Special Fund, over 100 high-level representatives from government ministries, regional organizations, food processing enterprises, import-export enterprises, transport and logistics enterprises and food processing equipment and technology companies, as well as food processing support organizations and other business associations attended the event on November 7, 2019 at the Saigon Grand Hotel in Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam. [Read more.](#)



MI Sets Out to Enhance Demand-Driven Migration Governance

Mekong Institute gathered 24 officials representing the ministries of labour, immigration, commerce, as well as private recruitment agencies and trade unions from Cambodia, People’s Republic of China, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam to share good practices and develop recommendations for stronger regional migration governance. Funded by the Thailand International Cooperation Agency, the learning program conducted from November 4 to 10, 2019 covered a workshop in Centara Hotel, Mae Sot, Thailand and several study visits in Mae Sot, Thailand and Myawaddy, Myanmar. [Read more.](#)



MI and Lancang-Mekong Partners Strengthen Technology and Innovation Policies

Held from November 18 to 20, 2019, MI convened 30 senior government officials, academics and scientists from Cambodia, P.R. China, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam to deliberate on current technology and innovation policy needs and capacities of Lancang-Mekong member countries to boost efficiency, productivity and competitiveness in the region. The activity was funded by the People’s Republic of China. [Read more.](#)



MI Concludes Training Course on Project Management and Evaluation of Sub-Regional Development Projects with S&E Workshop

A synthesis and evaluation workshop for the training course Project Management and Evaluation of Sub-Regional Development Projects was held from November 14 and 15 to review results of action plan implementation following the training in June 2019. Workshop participants shared best practices and lessons learned from conducting stakeholder analysis, designing budget forecasts, and crafting project proposals, among others.

OTHER ACTIVITIES



Mekong Institute—A Look Back at 2019

From November 18 and 19, 2019, the 50-member MI staff assessed MI’s 2019 operations and developed its 2020 work plan at the Performance Review workshop. The annual activity is part of MI’s commitment to promote deeper connectivity, instill collaboration and foster a greater sense of community among member countries of the Greater Mekong Subregion.



MI Executive Director Sits as Panelist in Nikkei Sasin Forum 2019

MI Executive Director Dr. Watcharas Leelawath joined the session on “Smart Supply Chain” at the Nikkei Sasin Forum 2019 last November 29, 2019 in Bangkok, Thailand. Dr. Leelawath and other high-level officials from Japan and Thailand’s government, private and academic sectors discussed how to move forward initiatives on Smart Mobility, Smart Energy and Smart Environment in Asia.



MI Joins the KOR-ASIA Forum

MI Executive Director Dr. Watcharas Leelawath was a panel discussant in the session “Toward Cooperation-based Economic Community” at the KOR-ASIA Forum, organized by Hankook Ilbo Media Group, on November 22, 2019 in Seoul, South Korea. The Forum highlighted co-prosperity through strategic partnerships and economic cooperation. Dignitaries, including 10 incumbent and former heads of state, and experts exchanged ideas on furthering Korea-Asia ties.



MI Speaks at Inclusive Korea 2019

Dr. Watcharas Leelawath, MI Executive Director, contributed to the session “Prosperity: New Southern Cooperation and the Korean Peninsula Peace Economy” at the Inclusive Korea 2019 international conference last November 20 and 21, 2019 in Seoul, South Korea. The event was hosted by the Presidential Commission on Policy Planning and the Korea Council of Humanities Social Research Institute and organized by the Korea Institute of Public Administration.



MI Executive Director Speaks about Harnessing Technology

Dr. Watcharas Leelawath was a panelist in the session “Harnessing Technology to Enhance Research and Engage Policymakers and the Public” at the Asia-Pacific Think Tank Summit last November 11, 2019. The event provided a platform for learning, exchange of practices, as well as incubation of new ideas and approaches to sustainable development. MI co-organized the event with UNESCAP and Think Tanks and Civil Society Program in Bangkok, Thailand.



DECEMBER

16

Dissemination Workshop on the Study on Regional Cooperation Mechanism on Priority Areas Under the Mekong-Lancang Cooperation Framework

16-19

Modular Training on Information Requirements for Special Economic Zones in Lancang-Mekong Region

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Meet **Ra Thorng**, the passionate, friendly and hardworking program coordinator of MI's Agricultural Development and Commercialization Department (ADC). A Cambodian with a master degree in Natural Resource Management and Rural Development, Ra has been with the intergovernmental organization since 2012. Under ADC's development priorities, he helps build capacities and form linkages of public and private stakeholders to boost agricultural productivity and profitability in the GMS.

How have you grown since coming to MI seven years ago?

When I started, I was shy and rarely mingled with others. Because of the trust and direction of my supervisor, my confidence and resilience grew. Today, I conduct research, organize workshops, facilitate trainings, participate in international courses and conferences, as well as partner with government and private sectors to strengthen national food safety control systems and improve quality and safety of the agri-food supply chains to protect consumer health and enhance agricultural trade in the region.

What are you most proud of about being part of the MI family?

MI is well-regarded for its contributions to the GMS in the last 23 years. I am proud to belong to a hardworking, innovative and creative team who is committed to build human resource capacities to foster deeper connectivity, collaboration and a sense of community in the region.

What do you love about your work?

The best gift one can receive is the chance to work hard at work worth doing. My work allows me to help people from different walks of life. It also lets me contribute in my own little way to the development of my country. It fulfills me to see my countrymen transfer the knowledge they gained from MI activities to help our government develop stronger policies and implement strategies that result to better services to Cambodia and the region.

MI has capacitated over 7,000 nationals representing the GMS, including 1,343 Cambodians. MI's support in the GMS will continue to expand as it prepares to roll out 20 projects in 2020.

For more on Ra and ADC's work in Cambodia, PR China, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam, please email ra@mekonginstitute.org or visit www.mekonginstitute.org.



STAFF PROFILE

Each month, get to know one of MI's 53-member team in our Staff Profile series.