

WHAT'S INSIDE

MI Holds Consultative Workshop on
Border Facilitation for Logistics Sector

Enabling Food Safety Networking in Lao
PDR

Baseline Study on CBTF in EWEC
Underway

MI Joins Silk Road Forum



TRAINING/WORKSHOP/SLV ACTIVITIES

Transport Key Players Gather at MI for Consultative Workshop on Border Facilitation for Logistics Development

Sixteen mid- and senior-level officials from key ministries and government agencies from the Lancang-Mekong countries attended the regional consultative workshop on *Upgrading Border Facilitation for Trade and Logistics Development in Lancang-Mekong Sub-region* on December 21, 2018 at MI. The one-day workshop presented the preliminary findings of the study on “Improvement of Infrastructures and Regulations for Border Economic Zones” and discussed project intervention strategies and implementation for the next three years. [Read more.](#)



Can Tho University Hosts MI Food Safety Forum

Mekong Institute, in cooperation with the Biotechnology Research and Development Institute (BIRDI) and College of Agriculture (CA) of Can Tho University (CTU), organized a knowledge sharing forum last December 12, 2018 in Can Tho City, Vietnam. Attended by 70 government officials from food safety agencies, academics, researchers and the private sector, the forum discussed current food safety-related issues on fruit and vegetable production in the country's Mekong Delta region. [Read more.](#)





Enabling Food Safety Networking in Lao PDR

Forty PROSAFE alumni from public and private organizations gathered for the *Food Safety Learning Event and Networking* in Vientiane, Lao PDR on December 4, 2018. Hosted by MI together with the Food and Drug Department, Ministry of Health of Lao PDR, the event allowed food safety stakeholders to discuss strategies and mechanisms to strengthen national food safety control system initiatives and national priorities in food safety. [Read more.](#)



EWEC (SDC) PROJECT ACTIVITIES



Project Working Groups Join SLV at 1st Lao-Thai Friendship Bridge International Border

Members of the Project Working Group from Savannakhet and Khammouane provinces, Lao PDR joined a structured learning visit (SLV) on December 17-20, 2018. The participants were introduced to best practices on displaying information on procedures and fees and border management at the 1st Lao-Thai Friendship Bridge International Border.



Insights from the SLV will be used as reference for further improving the display of information and management of migration flow and cargo procedures and fees at their own borders such as the 2nd and 3rd Lao-Thai Friendship Bridge International Borders.

EWEC Lao Office Supports Promotion of GAP

The EWEC Lao Office organized knowledge dissemination meetings from December 24 to 31, 2018 in 15 villages of the districts of Xonnabouly, Champhone, Songkhone, Xayphouthong and Xaybouly in Savannakhet province. More than 450 farmers were estimated to have joined the meetings, which aimed to share knowledge on Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) standards.

Baseline Study on CBTF in EWEC Underway

The baseline study on cross-border trade facilitation (CBTF) under the EWEC Project kicked off in Lao PDR and Myanmar with trainings and surveys/interviews. On December 6-13, 2018, MI's Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) unit carried out a training on data collection and a pilot test in Savannakhet and Khammouane provinces, with the interviews carried out shortly after at the 2nd Lao-Thai Friendship Bridge International Border of Savannakhet, Lao PDR and Mukdahan, Thailand.

On December 20-26, a similar training and interviews/surveys were done, this time at the border gate of Myawaddy, Myanmar and Mae Sot, Thailand. Those interviewed were truck drivers, traders, customs brokers, and selected passengers.



EWEC Myanmar Office Holds Roundtable Meeting on CBTF

Nine business leaders from the Myawaddy Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Myawaddy Transportation and Logistics Entrepreneurs Association attended the roundtable meeting organized by the EWEC Myanmar Office on December 18, 2018. Part of the Project's ongoing efforts to facilitate cross-border trade, the meeting discussed issues and challenges in the regulatory environment concerning trading in twin borders. The meeting was capped off with the drafting of an action plan on cross-border trade facilitation in the Tak-Myawaddy region.



Contract Farmers Meet to Discuss Agreement

The EWEC Myanmar Office and Mya Htay Kywe Lin Company met with 11 farmer leaders last December 25, 2018 in Pha Lu Gyi village, Myawaddy to discuss the contract farming agreement. The company has agreed to reduce the seed price and delay the deducting time for those affected by the floods last year, also allowing farmers to sell their products to those willing to pay a good price.

EWEC Project Facilitates Loan Access for Local Maize Brokers

In a bid to enable better access to loans of local maize growers/brokers and farmer leaders, the EWEC Myanmar team met with Yoma Bank last December 5, 2018. The meeting discussed the reduction of loan application requirements for the maize growers. The loan program intends to offer the farmers with a lower interest rate to boost their farm value and improve their productivity.



SLV at Khammouane - Nakhon Phanom International Border Gate Organized

The EWEC Vietnam Office organized an SLV for members of the Quang Tri Inter-Agency Working Group at the Khammouane-Nakhon Phanom International Border Gate last December 4-5, 2018. The visit aimed to introduce good practices in information and guide display on border procedures, fees and charges at the border gate. Following the visit, the participants developed a display solution for the Lao Bao border gate, as well as an action plan for implementing said display solution.



OTHER ACTIVITIES

MI Joins Silk and Road Forum

MI Executive Director Dr. Watcharas Leelawath joined the 4th Silk Road Forum on December 7-8, 2018 in Paris, France where he talked about development cooperation and cultural exchange as drivers of economic integration, inclusive growth and a community of shared interests in the Mekong region. Organized by the Silk Road Think Tank Network, the Forum discussed topics such as open world economy, scientific and technological revolution, and green and inclusive development.



UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

JAN.

14-25

Modular Training on Strategic Management to Labor Migration in the GMS

MEKONG INSTITUTE

123 Mittraphap Rd.,
Muang District
Khon Kaen 40002,
Thailand

+ 66 (0) 43 202 411 to 2
+66 (0) 43 204 041 to 2
+ 66 (0) 43 203 656
information@mekonginstitute.org