

E - BRIEFING

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Development for Regional Cooperation and Integration

INSIDE

- Hydropower Construction and Power System Training
- First RLED-EWEC Project Certification on GAP Standards
- Final Audit of GMP Standards
- EWEC E-Commerce Promotion Workshop
- MOU Signing with Korea Labor Foundation

■ TRAINING/WORKSHOP/SLV ACTIVITIES

ADB National Consultation Workshops

MI attended ADB National Consultation workshops on 'GMS Strategy and Action Plan (2018-2022) for Promoting Safe and Environment-Friendly Agro-based Value Chains', which took place from January to February 2017 in the six GMS countries of Cambodia, PR China, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam.



The workshops brought together national stakeholders from each country's agricultural and related sectors to discuss the first draft of the strategy and action plan.

Training on 'Hydropower Project Construction and Power System Operation Management in the GMS'



With support from Thailand International Cooperation Agency (TICA), MI organized a training on 'Hydropower Project Construction and Power System Operation Management in the GMS' at MI from February 6 to 8, 2017.

The training brought together ten government officials from the Ministry of Energy and Mines, Lao PDR, to improve knowledge and skills related to hydropower technology and strengthen their capacity for the planning, construction and operations management of hydropower projects.

EWEC (SDC) PROJECT ACTIVITIES

First RLED-EWEC Project Certification on GAP Standards



The RLED-EWEC project is breaking ground on implementing GAP standards in the rice sector in Lao PDR.

The project is working with eighty pilot farmer households from four farmer groups in three districts: Thakhek, Nongbok and Nhommalath in Khammouane province, Lao PDR, where GAP standards were first implemented at the end of 2015. An inspection for both producing and processing was conducted in December 2016, and the Department of Agriculture, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry issued the very first Lao GAP

Standards certificate in January 2017.

Significantly, rice production increased 13% since the project began and the price of both sticky and non-glutinous GAP rice is 25-35% higher than non-GAP rice. In addition, a newly-formed cooperative facilitated contract farming. The success of the project demonstrates that farmers are capable of meeting the standards as well as passing on their knowledge to others.

GMP Standards Audit

A final audit was conducted on February 14, 2017 at the Vanida Rice Mill, Khammouane Province, Lao PDR by the Technical Inspection Association of Thailand, TUV-SUD.



The objectives of the audit were to revise all pending tasks and perform rice mill site and staff inspections. The auditor will summarize the report and send the results to TUV-SUD Singapore for evaluation and certificate issuance by the end of March, 2017.

Final Evaluation of EWEC Project



MI conducted the final evaluation of the EWEC project in Mywaddy, Myanmar from January 28 to February 2, 2017.

The evaluation consisted of a survey of the farmers and interviews with different stakeholders including farmer leaders, Department of Agriculture officials and traders. The evaluation served to not only measure the effectiveness of different interventions, but also provide ideas for shaping future interventions.

■ EWEC (SDC) PROJECT ACTIVITIES

EWEC Database Update and E-commerce Promotion Workshop



To enhance SMEs' competitiveness along the EWEC, MI organized a workshop on 'EWEC Database Update and E-Commerce Promotion' in Dong Ha City, Quang Tri province of Vietnam on February 17, 2017 in collaboration with Quang Tri Department of Industry and Trade.

In attendance were representatives of Trade Promotion Organizations and SMEs from the provinces of Savannakhet (Lao PDR) and Quang Tri (Vietnam).

■ WHAT'S NEW

Meeting with Lao Government Officials

To monitor and review the progress of the MI Food Safety Project's (FSP) first training participants, Ms. Maria Theresa Medialdia, Director of ADC, along with other ADC staff, visited Lao government officials in Vientiane, Lao PDR on February 2 and 3, 2017. MI's main objective was to review the progress of the government officials' action plan and finalize further actions; identify ways forward, discuss and clarify the roles and responsibilities of each department and ministries in project implementation; and identify possible training participants for the remaining workshops.

■ OTHER ACTIVITIES

MoU signing

MI and the Korea Labor Foundation (KLF) signed an Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on February 28, 2017 at MI to join their respective experiences through collaborative projects on general cooperation in the GMS. The MoU was signed between Dr. Watcharas Leelawath, the Executive Director of MI, and Mr. EOM, Hyeon-taek, Secretary General & CEO of the KLF.



MEKONG INSTITUTE

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