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■ TRAINING/WORKSHOP/SLV ACTIVITIES

Training on "Food Safety Management Tools in Food Manufacturing"

Mekong Institute (MI) and TWM Consultant co-organized a localized training on "Food Safety Management Tools in Food Manufacturing" from March 7 to 9, 2017 at Team Coffee, Phnom Penh, Cambodia.



Designed for agro-processing SMEs and focused on the principles and concepts of GMP and HACCP, the training introduced the basic principles of food safety, hygiene and sanitation to the fourteen participants. It also discussed the food safety hazards and how to control them adequately. [Read more >>>](#)

Training on "Effective Human Resource Management in the Context of Public Administration"



With the support from TICA, MI conducted a training program on "Effective Human Resource Management in the Context of Public Administration" from March 13 to 17, 2017 at MI for fifteen participants from Lao PDR.

The course discussed good practices of managing human resources and its development in the region and beyond, presenting human resource management as part of a wider process of public administration improvement. The main objectives were to acquaint participants with modern public administration concepts and structures; to improve participants' knowledge and skills in managing human resources; to learn good practices in human resource management in the public sector; and to promote communication, cooperation and trust among different government agencies of Lao PDR.

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■ TRAINING/WORKSHOP/SLV ACTIVITIES

Training on "Renewable Energy in the GMS"



MI organized a two-week training on "Renewable Energy in the GMS" from March 27 to April 7, 2017 at MI to facilitate increased cooperation in the development of innovative, cost-effective, and secure renewable energy technologies in the GMS. There were twenty six participants from the six GMS countries attending the course. Specific objectives included knowledge and skill enhancement of government officials and professionals on renewable energy development; highlighting the importance of national renewable energy development plans, as well as promoting cooperation for renewable energy development; and establishing a network of energy practitioners to promote sustainable energy production and consumption practices.

■ EWEC (SDC) PROJECT ACTIVITIES

EWEC National Consultations

MI conducted the National Consultations on "Enabling Regulatory Environment for Facilitating Cross-Border Trade on East-West Economic Corridor" in Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam from February 21 to March 23, 2017. The consultations focused on three main areas: customs cooperation and border management, technical cooperation in the agricultural sector, and institutional development and coordination mechanisms. [Read more >>>](#)



Policy Dialogue on CBT Facilitation



MI successfully organized the second policy dialogue on cross-border trade facilitation between the provinces of Quang Tri (Vietnam) and Savannakhet (Lao PDR) on March 2, 2017 in Dong Ha City, Quang Tri, Vietnam.

The Executive Director of MI, Dr. Watcharas Leelawath, Vice Governor of Savannakhet, H.E. Mr. Thonekeo Phouthakayalath, and Vice Chairman of Quang Tri Provincial People's Committee, H.E. Mr. Nguyen Quan Chinh, co-chaired the dialogue with the participation of representatives of provincial/district departments and cross-border enterprises from both sides.

Following the achievements obtained from the first dialogue held on October 28, 2016, the two delegations discussed the cooperation of cross-border trade and agreed on cross-border trade facilitation between Quang Tri and Savannakhet. At the end of the event, the two provincial leaders signed an MoU to facilitate cross-border trade between the two provinces from 2017 to 2019. The agreement helps pave the way to lowering infrastructure costs and facilitating cross-border trade between the two countries, while strengthening the solidarity and friendship between the two provinces.

■ WHAT'S NEW

Visit From Sophia University, Japan

MI welcomed Dr. Yasushi Hirosato, Director of Center for Global Discovery Professor, Faculty of Global Studies, Sophia University, Japan and six students from the university on March 9, 2017 at MI. The two sides exchanged information and projects involved on the Southern Economic Corridor (SEC) and East-West Economic Corridor (EWEC).



The team visited MI as part of a study program along the EWEC. The meeting workshop discussed the role of MI and its project implementations, as well as challenges and investment policy linkage to poverty reduction in the EWEC.

MI Attends FGD on SDGs in Lao PDR



MI's Executive Director, Dr. Watcharas Leelawath, spoke at a Focus Group Discussion on "Financial Role in Supporting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Lao PDR" on March 15, 2017 in Vientiane, Lao PDR. The discussion aimed to present and verify the study on SDGs, highlighting five main goals of development, including People, Planet, Peace, Prosperity, and Partnership.

[Read more >>>](#)

MI for Children

On March 20, 2017, MI reached out to spend a fun day with the kids of Baan Khok Klang Nong Lai Pittayasan School in Khon Kaen, Thailand, bringing in kind donations of toys, school supplies, clothes, small appliances, and financial support.



MI Featured in "The Nation"



MI, with the support of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), helped facilitate the very first Good Manufacturing Practice certificate for a rice mill in Khammouane province, Lao PDR. [Read more >>>](#)

■ UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Regional Consultation Workshop on GMS Transport Information Connectivity	April 19-21, 2017
Modular Training on Promoting Women Entrepreneurship for Export Businesses	April 24-28, 2017
ToT on Certified Logistics Master (Phase III)	April 24 - May 5, 2017
Training on "Affordable, Sustainable and Innovative Technology Based Energy for Mountainous Rural Area"	April 24 - May 6, 2017
Mid-term Evaluation for JAIF-SEC Project (by third party)	April 2017
SEC Project Audit (by third party)	April 2017



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