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TRAINING/WORKSHOP/SLV ACTIVITIES

MI Holds 3rd Modular Training on Green Freight

The third round of modular training on *Green Freight and Logistics Development in the Mekong Countries* was held on April 1-5, 2019 at the MI Residential Training Center, bringing together 30 participants from freight and logistics companies as well as relevant government agencies from Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam. Organized to broaden awareness on sustainable freight and logistics practices, the training was supported by the Mekong-Republic of Korea Cooperation Fund.



EWEC (SDC) PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Back-to-Back Business to Government Meetings Further Catalyze Discussions on Cross-Border Trade in EWEC

Two Business to Government (B2G) meetings were organized this month to advance discussions on cross-border trade in the East West Economic Corridor. On April 10, 2019, 117 business and government stakeholders from Khammouane, Lao PDR; Nakhon Phanom, Thailand and Quang Binh, Vietnam gathered to discuss clear steps and resolutions to facilitate enhanced trading in the three border provinces. During the meeting, government agencies from the three provinces also briefed the business sector on the actual implementation of cross-border trade regulations and policies. [Read more.](#)

On April 25, a similar B2G meeting was held among businesses and relevant government agencies from the border provinces of Tak, Thailand and Myawaddy, Myanmar. The 88 participants tackled mechanisms for enhancing efficiency and transparency of cross-border transactions. [Read more.](#)

These meetings were held following the Business to Business meetings held in the previous months wherein business representatives drew up proposals for presentation and discussion with government agencies.



EWEC Project's Coffee Farmers Join UCC Coffee Contest

With support from the RLED-EWEC Project, three coffee farmers from Huong Hoa competed in the 5th UCC Group Coffee Quality Contest last April 4-6, 2019 in Da Lat City, Vietnam. Eight best quality samples of Arabica beans from the farmer households in Huong Hoa were entered in the contest, competing with over a hundred other Arabica beans from Lam Dong and Son La provinces. Mr. Ho Van Cuong, one of the coffee growers, expressed his appreciation at the chance to join the contest and the knowledge and experiences he gained from interacting with participants, coffee experts and enterprises.



Korean Enterprise Visits Project Site to Explore Investment Opportunities

A Korean enterprise visited the coffee production site in Huong Phung commune, Huong Hoa district in Quang Tri last April 14-15 to explore investment opportunities. The visit came after the said enterprise met with the Project's coffee farmers in the Coffee Quality Contest. The meeting discussed the investment plan and the potentials of bringing Huong Hoa coffee to the Korean and Taiwanese markets. The visit turned out to be very positive, with the enterprise expressing strong interest in considering the investment plan in the commune instead of Da Lat as originally planned.



EWEC Vietnam Holds Workshop to Review 2018 Coffee Production

The EWEC Vietnam Office met with 50 representatives from authorities and agencies such as the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, as well as local partners like the Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development and the Binh Dien Fertilizer Company and coffee farmer groups last March 29-30, 2019 in Cua Viet township in Quang Tri, Vietnam. The two-day workshop reviewed the 2018 coffee crop production including business transactions between farmer groups and enterprises and the farmer group operations. Discussions also included proposals and recommendations to address issues on production performance and farmer group partnerships.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

MI Speaks at ESCAP Training on Freight and Logistics

Mr. Madhurjya Kumar Dutta, Director of MI's Trade and Investment Facilitation (TIF) Department, delivered a training session on 'Demand-driven Sustainable Port Development' at the *Capacity Development Workshop on Sustainable Port Development and Improving Port Productivity* on April 3-4, 2019 at UNESCAP in Bangkok. The training, attended by 34 participants from UNESCAP member countries in Asia and the Pacific, aimed to strengthen sustainable transport development and enhance intra- and inter-regional transport connectivity. The event was organized by ESCAP's Transport Division.



TIF Director Joins Dialogue on Lower Mekong Initiative

On April 10, Mr. Madhurjya Kumar Dutta joined several other key stakeholders from the Lower Mekong countries (Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam) in the 1st Policy Dialogue on the Lower Mekong Initiative (LMI) last April 10, 2019. Organized by the United States Department of State and the Thailand Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the meeting discussed the four pillars of the LMI (water, energy, education, human development, and connectivity), ongoing related projects and the progress of the action plan 2016-2020.



MI Engaged in Evaluation of JAIF-funded Project on Disability Inclusiveness

MI's Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Unit was tapped to conduct the final evaluation for the project on *ASEAN Hometown Improvement through Disability Inclusive Community Model*, funded by the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund and implemented by the Asia-Pacific Development Center on Disability. Interviews and focused group discussions were carried out in selected communities in Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam from March 25 to April 16, 2019. The evaluation intends to gather key changes and results of the project intervention among beneficiaries, including lessons learned in the project's objective of developing disability-inclusive hometowns in the region.



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Regional Training Program on Food Hygiene and Sanitation for Food Handlers

20-31

International Training on Green Freight and Logistics Development

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