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TRAINING/WORKSHOP/SLV ACTIVITIES

MI Inks MoU with Ministry of Commerce for Projects under Lancang-Mekong Cooperation

MI signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Thailand Ministry of Commerce on April 18, 2018 on the cooperation of four development projects under the Lancang-Mekong Cooperation Special Fund. The MoU signing, held in Bangkok, makes MI the implementing agency of the multi-year projects that target the development of cross-border economic zones, upgrading of border facilitation for trade and logistics development, organization of Lancang-Mekong business forum, and the promotion of e-commerce for rural development in the Lancang-Mekong region. [Read more.](#)



Dr. Narongchai Akrasanee on MI's Commitment to the Lancang-Mekong Cooperation

Addressing foreign dignitaries, government officers, development partners, and members of the media during MI's MoU signing with the Ministry of Commerce on April 18, Dr. Narongchai Akrasanee, MI Steering Committee Chairman, spoke about destiny -- MI's destiny -- as an integral actor in the development of Mekong countries. According to Dr. Akrasanee, since the first GMS Ministerial Retreat, the Greater Mekong Sub-region has flourished while MI has "continued to expand its human resource and economic policy development work" in the region. "It [MI's projects] has covered the subjects of market economy, infrastructure development for connectivity of Mekong countries, the promotion of commercialization in all aspects and sectors, including logistics, and now into technological development and the new economy...The projects under this Mekong-Lancang Cooperation Special Fund, the MoUs of which are signed today, will definitely support the development of Mekong countries," he said.

MI Holds Workshop on Transport Information Connectivity System

Over 40 government officers from the six countries of the Greater Mekong Sub-region joined the regional modular workshop on *Development of the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) Transport Information Connectivity System (GTICS) along the Economic Corridors* last April 3-5, 2018 at MI. The workshop engaged the participants from national ministries of transport and national transport associations from border provinces of the economic corridors in discussions on strategies to develop the GTICS at the national and provincial levels in the six countries. The workshop was organized with the support of the Government of the People’s Republic of China.



EWEC (SDC) PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Stronger Partnerships with Rice Millers Pursued in Savannakhet

The RLED-EWEC Project Lao Office continues to expand its partnerships with rice millers in Savannakhet under the linkage models. The most recent is with Yod Aoy Rice Mill. In a meeting on April 25, 2018, the project team and Yod Aoy Rice Mill discussed the farmer linkage and Good Agricultural Practice (GAP) and Good Management Practice (GMP) promotion and implementation. The rice mill expressed its interest in working with the Project to further enhance current benefits offered to farmers in Savannakhet province. In operation for over 30 years now, Yod Aoy Rice Mill also has a large-scale cassava farm that exports to Thailand and livestock farms supplying the domestic and Vietnamese markets.



GAP Training for Farmer Groups Kicks Off in Thakhek District, Khammouane

The first in a series of trainings on GAP was organized for three farmer groups in three villages in Thakhek district, Khammouane province on April 9-12 and 23-24, 2018. A total of 54 members from Ban Phone Xay, Ban Dongxok and Ban Nonghang villages joined the training as part of capacity building on GAP standardization among rice producers. The training introduced the farmers to the overall GAP standards, and taught them about mapping paddy field layout.



RLED-EWEC Myanmar Organizes Training on Technology Awareness

The RLED-EWEC Myanmar Office organized a training on technology awareness and capacity development for contract farmers at Min Let Pan Sanpya village as part of the monitoring of the work implemented by cooperation partner, Bio-Supreme Company. The one-day training was participated in by 117 farmers from 10 villages in Myawaddy, with the sessions delivered by resource persons from Bio-Supreme, Seed Company, and Green Way Agri-biz. The training introduced farmers to new inputs including bio-fertilizer and new seed varieties for maize during rain-fed season.





Contract Farmers, Suppliers Meet in Myawaddy

Some 140 farmers who are part of the contract farming scheme in Myawaddy and three private company suppliers joined the negotiation meetings organized by the RLED-EWEC Myanmar Office on April 10-11, 2018. The farmers and suppliers discussed the schedule for delivering inputs and seeds as well as loan distribution with Mya Htay Kywe Linn Co., Ltd who is the lead supplier for the program. The parties agreed that the agreement contract with the farmers and all farming inputs will be delivered by May 2018.

Coffee Review Workshop Organized in Quang Tri

About 70 representatives from local agencies such as the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Department of Industry and Trade, Khe Sanh Coffee Association, Farmers' Association, small and medium enterprises and farmer groups, joined a workshop reviewing the coffee production for 2017 of Quang Tri province on April 4, 2018. The workshop provided participants an overall review of the agricultural products in general and the coffee sector in particular, and allowed them to share lessons learned and discuss pressing issues and ways to work together to strengthen the existing linkages among farmer groups, processing enterprises and business service providers that are part of the MI-initiated linkage models.

Vietnam TV Features Quadripartite Model

The RLED-EWEC Project Vietnam Office has partnered with the Quang Tri Radio and Television Broadcast Station (QRTV) and the provincial office of the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development to introduce the Quadripartite model to more farmers through a TV series titled, "Accompanying with Arabica Coffee."

The 10-episode series kicked off with its first two episodes last March 21 and April 11, describing the linkage model and its benefits. The series hopes to encourage greater participation among smallholder farmers in the linkage model, as well as introduce it to other farmers for its eventual roll out in other sectors like rubber and pepper. The 5-minute episodes are aired on QRTV every third Wednesday of the month at 8:25pm with repeat broadcast the next day (Thursday) at 6:00 am and 6:00 pm. [Watch the videos on MI YouTube.](#)



OTHER ACTIVITIES

MI Participates in Asia Pacific Business Forum 2018

MI Executive Director Dr. Watcharas Leelawath joined the Asia-Pacific Business Forum 2018 on April 10-11, 2018 in Hong Kong. The event was organized by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), in partnership with Cyberport and the Innovation and Technology Bureau of HKSAR Government. Prior to this, on April 9, Dr. Leelawath also served as member of the Task Force on Agriculture and Food as part of the 5th Meeting of the ESCAP Sustainable Business Network. He shared MI's experiences in accelerating the formation of farmer groups in Lao PDR, Myanmar, and Vietnam. [Read more.](#)



MI Pays Courtesy Visit to New Chinese Consul General of Khon Kaen

The MI team, led by Dr. Watcharas Leelawath, paid a courtesy visit on April 14 to newly-appointed Consul General Mr. Liao Junyun of the Consulate General of the People's Republic of China in Khon Kaen. Dr. Leelawath introduced Mr. Liao Junyun to MI's work in Khon Kaen and the GMS.





MI Projects Introduced in Mekong Japan Cooperation Meeting

Trade and Investment Facilitation Director Mr. Madhurjya Kumar Dutta joined the 22nd Meeting on Mekong Japan Economic and Industrial Cooperation on April 26, 2017 in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar. The meeting set out to introduce the concept of "Connected Mekong Industrial Development" as a future direction of the Cooperation. Mr. Dutta introduced the Mekong-wide projects of MI that correspond to the work program of the Mekong Industrial Development Vision.



MI Knowledge Sharing Sessions Highlight Peer Learning

Peer and co-learning are at the core of the knowledge sharing sessions organized for MI staff for several years now. Since January this year, three knowledge sharing sessions have been held so far -- *Writing Emails for the Workplace* (Ms. Joclarisse Albia, CKM), *Fundamentals of Project Management* (Mr. Nazir Ul Haq, MEL and Mr. Nguyen Hung Cuong, EWEC), and *Cool Excel Formulas for Office Hours* (Ms. Phinyada Foytong, Finance) -- with 40, 20, and 22 administrative and project staff members in attendance, respectively.



UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

MAY

30-11
APRIL

Regional Training Program on Sustainable Transport and Logistics Planning and Management

7-11

MIYS Program: Training on Basic Facilitation and Regional Cooperation Concepts

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