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■ TRAINING/WORKSHOP/SLV ACTIVITIES

Training of Trainers on Certified Logistics Master (Phase III)



ToT participants together with the resource experts and MI facilitators at the start of the training.

MI successfully completed the third phase of the *Training of Trainers (ToT) on Certified Logistics Master* from May 1–5, 2017. The week-long training was held at MI in Khon Kaen, Thailand.

Eighteen selected CLMVT participants from the three modular training cycles on *Certified Logistics Master* attended the ToT.

The training included diverse core modules, and also provided a valuable opportunity for the participants to participate in the business networking platform with the members of the Thai Logistics for the Greater Mekong Sub-region Trade Association. [Read more here.](#)

Assuring Food Safety through Pest and Agrichemical Management

MI conducted the second regional training program on *Assuring Food Safety through Pest and Agrichemical Management*. This initiative empowers action against the excessive use of chemicals in the agriculture sector. The two-week training - held from May 15 until 26 at MI - was a joint initiative of MI and the New Zealand Aid Program (NZAP).



Participants and MI facilitators gather around to introduce themselves to the rest of the group.

Twenty-eight participants from Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, and Vietnam (CLMV), representing various regional food safety stakeholders, attended the training.

In addition, this aimed to engage private companies in CLMV to reinforce food safety practices in the supply chain and encourage farmer leaders to advocate integrated pest management (IPM) and good agricultural (GAP) practices to fellow farmers. [Read more here.](#)



The MI team with the CLMV participants and resource person pose for the group photo to mark the start of the learning engagement at the MI Residential Training Center.



GMP Milestone in Lao PDR

The East-West Economic Corridor (EWEC) Project's initiatives recently paid off as Vanida Rice Mill, one of the project's rice mill partners, had been awarded the Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) Certificate on May 5, 2017.

This is a milestone for Lao PDR's rice production sector and this achievement is attributed to the project's capacity building program on GMP standards. In 2016, six rice mills have extensively followed GMP practices – guided by the project's interventions. The rice mill operators have upgraded their rice producing facilities, warehouses, as well as the overall environment of their production sites – all of which have produced notable improvement on the rice quality in the province. [Read more here.](#)

EWEC Project Extends Assistance to a Farmer Group

From May 4 to 5, 2017, the project conducted a training session at Inn Gyin Myaing Village, Myawaddy District, Myanmar. The primary objective was to train the existing farmer associations and interested farmers to improve their capacities on operating farmer groups. This, in turn, should pave the way for increased production, collective accessibility to services and markets, and identification of niche markets for their products.

Thirty farmers attended the meeting. The event served as a platform for discussions involving their interests, concerns, and the next steps in linking with external organizations to further strengthen the capacities of their farmer groups.



Dr. Thet Thet Mar as she facilitates the session with the farmers.



Cross-Border Trade Facilitation

The EWEC project pursued efforts in improving cross-border facilitation at the border crossing point in Myawaddy through the meeting on *Identifying the Implementing Activities for Cross-Border Trade Facilitation* held on May 11, 2017, in Myawaddy, Myanmar. This initiative was jointly organized with the Kayin State Department of Consumer Affair (DOCA). Twenty participants, including representatives from the Myawaddy District government administration, a one stop unit, a plant and animal quarantine section, Myawaddy CCI, logistic companies, the Myanmar Inspection and Testing Service Ltd., attended the event.

Meeting with the Private Input and Microfinance Companies

In May, the project initiated a meeting with Awaba Input Company and Mahar Microfinance Company to continuously establish links with the private and microfinance sectors. Awaba Input Company furnishes farmers with agricultural supplies and technologies, and Mahar Microfinance Company provides loans to Myawaddy farmers.

This initiative defines a set of cooperative activities aiming to promote development in maize farming in Myawaddy such as conducting farmer seminars, extending field guidance, and implementing educational programs on the application of inputs and mechanisms on borrowing loans.



Representatives of the SME sector collaborate with the Project to help farmers boost maize farming in Myawaddy.

■ EWEC (SDC) PROJECT ACTIVITIES



Research Team Visits Myanmar Site

A research team from Mahidol University, led by Associate Professor Sophana Srichampa, visited the EWEC project Myanmar site on May 5, 2017. The visit provided the research team further details for their study on *Trade Along the Multinational ASEAN Plus Highway: Thailand-Myanmar-India*.

It resulted in discussions on the current situation of Kayin State, details of the RLED-EWEC project, and MI's roles and initiatives relevant to the mentioned research.

Collaborative Workshops Upscale the Quadripartite Model

The RLED-EWEC, in cooperation with Farmers' Association and Cooperation Alliance, organized two inception workshops to upscale the quadripartite model for pepper and rubber – two key crops produced in Cam Lo District, Quang Tri, Vietnam. The events were held on May 24, 2017. The two agencies are potential stakeholders capable of rolling out the partner-led quadripartite model in the province.

Representatives of leading enterprises, local governments, and more than 100 smallholder farmers from three communes in Cam Lo District attended the workshops.

The participants showed interest to the model as it addresses the needs of the farmers and the current situation of the localities. Participants have registered immediately after the workshops, showing eagerness in receiving the benefits in taking part in the model. Furthermore, the local government and relevant bodies committed to supporting individual farmers to formulate groups and strengthening other active units to join the cooperative model.



A farmer in Cam Thanh commune raising concerns over loan-taking to purchase fertilizer.

■ OTHER ACTIVITIES

MI Attends US-ASEAN Conference of Legal Issues of Regional Importance

The *US-ASEAN Conference on Legal Issues of Regional Importance* was held in Singapore on May 8-9, 2017. The conference was organized by the United States Department of State, The Asia Foundation and the Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Singapore.

Participants included specialists, law and policymakers, print and broadcast journalists and editors from the ASEAN Member States, the United States, and other countries. The event provided them a platform to meet, share experiences, and engage in a dialogue that examines and analyzes the legal dimension of several issues that are critical to the future of ASEAN. [Read more here.](#)



Mr. Madhurjya Kumar Dutta represented MI at the conference. He stressed on boosting ASEAN's intra-regional trade as an important element of the region's development.

MI Takes Part in the Belt and Road Forum



The Forum gathered leaders to discuss the thematic areas aiming to build and strengthen the international platform for cooperation.

MI participated in the *Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation*, which was held in Beijing, China on May 14, 2017. Dr. Watcharas Leelawath, MI's Executive Director, presented as one of the founding members of the Silk Road Think Tank Network (SiLKS).

Representatives from more than 130 countries attended the event that aimed to stimulate trade and economic growth along the ancient Silk Road.

In line with the event was the third SiLKS Annual Meeting held on May 16, 2017. Dr. Watcharas Leelawath spoke as a panelist and expressed MI's

willingness to strengthen collaborative efforts with the other members to achieve sustainable development of regional and global economies.

The network's members adopted the *SiLKS Declaration on Joint Action* to highlight the importance of fostering extensive cooperation between the parties. This initiative will further strengthen the integration of development strategies and continuously enhance capacity building efforts. Dr. Watcharas Leelawath has also been appointed as a Steering Committee member of the SiLKS. [Read more here.](#)



Dr. Watcharas Leelawath together with Dr. Sok Siphana and Dr. Sorajak Kasemsuvan.



MI Featured in the News

Sputnik International, a multimedia news center, featured MI's participation in the SiLKS Annual Meeting. The article stressed on MI's engagement in developing human resources to develop a plan that will benefit the Belt and Road Initiative. Click [here](#) to view the news article.



Mr. Madhurjya Kumar Dutta highlighted the importance of developing human resources for regional development.

MI Co-organizes the GMS Business Council Annual Meeting

The first Greater Mekong Sub-region Business Council (GMS-BC) Retreat was held in Phnom Penh, Cambodia on May 15, 2017. The event was jointly organized by the GMS Business Council, Mekong Business Initiative-Australia (AID), the Asian Development Bank and MI. More than 50 representatives from the private sector attended the retreat and participated in the discussion on how to further develop the private sector in alignment with regional cooperation in the GMS. [Read more here.](#)

MI Participates in the HIAF 7th Development Forum

The Human Life Advancement Foundation (HLAF) organized the 7th Development Forum on May 17, 2017, in Bangkok, Thailand. The event's theme was *Enhancing Global Food Security through Science, Technology and Innovation*.

Mr. Sudam Pawar, Director of the Innovation and Technological Connectivity Department of MI, participated in the exchange of knowledge, experience and technological development in agriculture between technological producers, educators, business and administrators, and members of communities who are in need of new technologies to address issues related to the theme. [Read more here.](#)



■ OTHER ACTIVITIES

Regional Consultation on Enabling Regulatory Environment Facilitating Cross-Border Trade Along the GMS East-West Economic Corridor

MI successfully conducted the regional consultation on *Enabling Regulatory Environment for Facilitating Cross-Border Trade (CBT) on East-West Economic Corridor (EWEC)* in Bangkok, Thailand on May 29, 2017.

Twenty-nine participants attended the regional consultation including representatives from various public and private sectors as well as international development institutions.

The primary objective of the consultation was to address and present the relevant factors of the regulatory environment, including achievements obtained as well as the challenges encountered on cross-border trade between the project provinces and along the EWEC. Read more [here](#).



■ UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Training Program on Energy Efficiency Policies in the GMS	June 5—16
Joint Synthesis Workshop on SME Cluster and Business Reach	June 8—9
SEC Modular Training on Trade and Event Promotion	June 12—16
Regional Training Program on Agri-food Inspection and Audit	June 19—23
First Cycle ToT on Logistics Management for Myanmar and Cambodia	June



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