

WHAT'S INSIDE

MI Holds Consumer Awareness Training

Regional Consultation on Transboundary
Water Cooperation Gathers Experts
from CLMVT

LMC Coordinators Join Training on
Project Management

MI Co-organizes EWEC Business
Forum



TRAINING/WORKSHOP/SLV ACTIVITIES

MI Celebrates World Food Safety Day with Consumer Awareness Training

Mekong Institute (MI) held the regional training program on *Raising Public Awareness for Safe Food Consumption* on June 3 in time for the World Food Safety Day on June 7. The New Zealand Aid Programme (NZAP)-supported training program was attended by 28 participants from the government and the academe from Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Vietnam. Part of MI's PROSAFE Project, the training aimed to enhance participants' skills in designing food safety campaigns in their respective countries. [Read more.](#)



LMC Coordinators Join Training on Project Management

Twenty-five national coordinators of Lancang-Mekong Cooperation projects in Cambodia, P.R. China, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam and four MI staff joined the modular training program on *Project Management and Evaluation of Sub-Regional Development Projects* on June 24-28, 2019 at MI. The training was organized as part of the project on 'Capacity Building for National Coordinators of Mekong-Lancang Countries' supported by the Mekong-Lancang Cooperation Special Fund. The one-week course aimed to develop skills in designing, implementing, and monitoring and evaluating development projects with sub-regional / trans-boundary development contexts. [Read](#)



MI Leads Talks to Improve Food Hygiene Certification in Yangon

Twenty-one local public health officials and restaurant operators from Yangon, Myanmar joined the *Food Safety Learning Event on Food Hygiene Certification and Grading System for Food Businesses* on June 20 in Yangon. Organized as part of MI's PROSAFE Project, the event aimed to provide a platform for discussion on the challenges and opportunities in strengthening local certification system for small food businesses in the city. [Read more.](#)



Regional Consultation on Transboundary Water Cooperation Gathers Experts from CLMVT

Water resource experts from Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Vietnam and Thailand joined the 1st regional consultation as part of MI's project on 'Transboundary Cooperation Mechanism on Adaptation to Climate Change and Hydropower Development Projects' supported by the Mekong-Lancang Cooperation Special Fund. The activity aimed to take forward steps in strengthening data and information sharing among relevant agencies concerned with water level and flow in the Mekong River Basin. [Read more.](#)



MI Supports Post-training Activities on Green Freight and Logistics

A national workshop on sustainable green freight and logistics was organized in Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam on June 19, 2019 spearheaded by participants of the training program on *Green Freight and Logistics* in February this year. The workshop gathered 60 representatives from freight transport service providers, and aimed to share best practices on green freight and logistics as well as promote the use of the Green Logistics Service Quality Standard software to SMEs. MI's team from the Trade and Investment Facilitation Department provided technical assistance and support to the action plan implementation.



EWEC (SDC) PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Savannakhet—Mukdahan—Quang Tri Business Sectors Converge for B2B Meeting

A Business to Business (B2B) meeting was held among the business sectors of Savannakhet, Lao PDR; Mukdahan, Thailand and Quang Tri, Vietnam on June 14 in Savannakhet Province. The B2B aimed to update the business representatives on the progress of the action plan implementation by the provincial governments following the first Business to Government (B2G) dialogue in Mukdahan last year, as well as share pending and emerging issue on cross-border trade activities and corresponding solutions. [Read more.](#)



MI Co-organizes EWEC Business Forum

MI co-organized the recently-held EWEC Business Forum with the Mukdahan Commercial Affairs Office as a step to further promote cross-border trade and investment in the economic corridor. Held on June 26-27 in Mukdahan, Thailand, 180 government officers and entrepreneurs from provinces along the EWEC namely, Quang Binh and Quang Tri (Vietnam), Khammouane and Savannakhet (Lao PDR), Myawaddy (Myanmar), as well as provinces from north and northeastern regions of Thailand, joined the event. A business matching capped the two-day Forum. [Read more.](#)



Rice Farmers Join Dissemination Meetings on GAP Standardization

A total of 232 farmers joined the dissemination meetings on GAP standardization held from June 12 to 15 in seven villages in Xebangfai district, Khammouane. Organized by the EWEC Lao Office together with the Crop Division of the Provincial Agriculture and Forestry and Sysamai Rice Mill, the meetings aimed to share with the farmers information on GAP standards and help facilitate their implementation.

Farmers, Bio-Supreme Input Company Discuss Contract Agreements

EWEC Myanmar facilitated the meeting between Bio-Supreme Input Company and farmers from northern Myawaddy last June 18. During the meeting, the company agreed to reduce the price of fertilizers and to postponing the repayment time of the farmers who were affected by the flooding in 2018. The farmers also requested for a group loan for their 2019 season.

New Demo Farms Established with Enterprise Partner in Myawaddy

Eleven demo farms were set up as part of the new cooperation agreement with Mar Lar Myaing Company. Totalling 22 acres, the farms were set up in 11 villages to help farmers compare the net benefit of using local and Thai fertilizers. On June 16, the EWEC Myanmar Office facilitated the meeting wherein funds and inputs were transferred from the company to the farmers.



Rubber and Pepper Farmers Form Groups, linked with SMEs

This month, two new rubber farmer groups and pepper farmer groups were formed through the support of MI's EWEC Project, the Quang Tri Trading Corporation and Quang Tri Sub-department of Rural Development. Following their formation, some 30 members of the Tan Phy farmer group were linked with Cam Lo Rubber Company, while about 107 members of two pepper groups were matched with Dong Ha Agriculture Product Company. The business matching will help eliminate middlemen and allow farmers to sell their products in bulk direct to companies and increase their income.

EWEC Vietnam Leads Review Workshop on 2018 Rubber Production

The EWEC Vietnam Office hosted 37 participants from local government authorities, banks and rubber enterprises and rubber farmer groups in a workshop to review the results of the 2018 rubber production including business transactions between farmer groups and enterprises and farmer group operations. Held on June 4-5 in Cua Viet township in Quang Tri, farmer groups shared pending issues while local authorities and enterprises provided updated information on policies supporting farmer groups and agriculture cooperative. The workshop resulted with the development of an agreed joint plan of action for the 2019 crop review.



Project Coffee Farmers Join Coffee Roasting Training

The RLED-EWEC Project supported the participation of representatives from two coffee mini-processors in Huong Hoa in a three-day training on coffee roasting in Ho Chi Minh City. The training shared techniques on product processing, which they can further use to support coffee farmer groups.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

MI Speaks at Seminar on SEZ Development

MI Executive Director Dr. Watcharas Leelawath served as one of the speakers in the seminar on *Special Economic Zone Development for Trade, Investment and Tourism* on June 27-30 in Chiang Rai, Thailand. Organized by the District Office of Chiang Khong, Department of Provincial Administration, and the International Institute for Trade and Development, the seminar aimed to enhance cross-border special economic zone development to support GMS logistics development. Dr. Watcharas talked about the initiatives of MI geared towards promoting connectivity and cross-border trading in GMS economic gateways.



Progress on MKCF Projects Shared in Mekong-Korea Senior Officials Meeting

Updates on the progress of projects under the Mekong-Republic of Korea Cooperation Fund (MKCF) including 12 pre-selected projects under the 3rd Call were presented during the Mekong-Korea Senior Officials' Meeting on June 13-14, 2019 in Bangkok. MI Executive Director Dr. Watcharas Leelawath and Mr. Madhurjya Kumar Dutta, TIF Director, led the presentations. Among other things discussed during the meeting were the Mekong-ROK Summit and the Mekong-ROK Foreign Ministers' Meeting.





OTHER ACTIVITIES

MI Joins ASEAN Sustainable Business Forum 2019

Mr. Madhurjya Kumar Dutta, Director of MI's Trade and Investment Facilitation Department attended the ASEAN Sustainable Business Forum 2019 on June 5 in Bangkok. At the Forum, he shared the initiatives and projects of MI contributing to the UN Sustainable Development Goals. The event was organized by the Agricultural Food Marketing Association of Asia and the Pacific.



MI Weighs In on Future Prospects of Mekong River in Cambodia Workshop

Mr. Sudam Pawar, Director of MI's Innovation and Technological Connectivity Department, joined development experts, academics, and government officers in the Regional Workshop on the Future Prospects of the Mekong River held in Phnom Penh, Cambodia on June 13-14. As one of the panelists of the session on 'Environmental, Sustainability and Human Security Aspects of the Mekong', he discussed the interplay of hydropower projects, climate change, and sustainable agriculture in the Mekong River Basin.



MI Supports CLMVT Forum 2019

MI co-organized the recently held CLMVT Forum 2019 on June 23-24, 2019 in Bangkok, Thailand. With the theme, "CLMVT as the New Value Chain Hub of Asia" this year's Forum aimed to strengthen the shared prosperity of the five Mekong countries in line with sustainable development and to further develop regional networks among entrepreneurs, academics, and policymakers. The event was spearheaded by the Thailand Ministry of Commerce.



UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

JULY

1-12

Regional Training Program on Food Safety Risk Management and Traceability in the Supply Chain

8-10

Regional Workshop on Business Connection and Information Sharing among SEZs in the LM Countries

15-25

Communications Skills 2- Capacity Building on Regional Cooperation and Integration in Lancang-Mekong Region

24-25

Joint Mekong Forum and GMS Logistics Forum 2019

29 - 2 AUG

Regional Training Program on Communicating Food Safety

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