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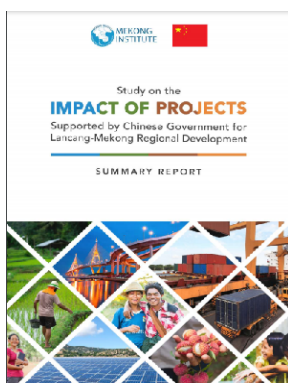
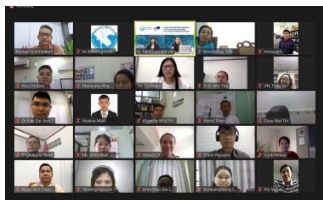
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TRAININGS/WORKSHOPS/SLV ACTIVITIES



P.R. China and MI Webinar Tackle COVID-19

Over 1,500 GMS nationals viewed the MI and the Permanent Mission of China to UNESCAP webinar on “Leveraging Technology to Fight COVID-19: The China and Collective Subregion Response” last June 28, 2021. The activity highlighted the P.R. China report on how the use of big data, artificial intelligence, and unmanned aerial vehicles helped flatten the curb during peak surges in the country. Health experts from Lao PDR and Thailand also presented their countries’ best approaches on information-sharing and feedbacking to help mitigate the transmission of the virus. [Read more.](#)

MI and TICA Hold Workshop to Strengthen Employability of CLMV Workforce

In continued pursuit of enhancing the competitiveness of the CLMV workforce through broad-based support, MI and TICA rolled out a regional online workshop on “Enhancing Private Sector Engagement in Improving Employability of CLMV” for 46 representatives from business groups and non-governmental organizations from June 21 to 22, 2021. [Read more.](#)

Independent Report Positively Rates MI Performance

Twenty P.R. China-funded projects implemented by MI were rated to have fostered collaborative engagements, cross-cultural connections, and broader networking linkages across GMS sectors according to an independent report commissioned by the Government of P.R. China.

The assessment covered 20 MI projects from 2016 to 2020, which ranged from agricultural development; trade and investment facilitation; energy, technology, and innovation; regional government cooperation; water resources; and poverty alleviation. [Read more.](#)



MI Opens Food Safety for Market Access Regional

Supported by the New Zealand Aid Programme, MI exposed CLMV participants to current food safety standards, strategies, and requirements at an online training course on “Food Safety for Market Access” from June 21 to June 25, 2021. [Read more.](#)



Thailand MOAC and MI Prepare for Global Food Systems Summit 2021

MI and the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives (MOAC) pooled recommendations from leading food and agriculture stakeholders in Northern Thailand on strengthening food production, processing, distribution, and waste management. Findings from the meeting will be consolidated into a report in preparation for the Global Food Systems Summit in August 2021, where Thailand representatives will present the progress of the country’s food systems. [Read more.](#)

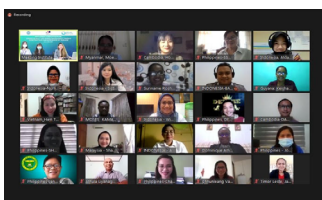


MI Official Highlights GMS Trade at International Business Meeting

Mr. Madhurjya Kumar Dutta, MI’s Director of Trade and Investment Facilitation, presented the intergovernmental organization’s contributions in helping boost GMS stakeholders’ opportunities in international and cross-border trade by working to harmonize trade policies, facilitating business-to-business engagements, and making more accessible information on business products and services at a meeting hosted by the Joint Foreign Chambers of Commerce in Thailand. [Read more.](#)

MI Links Food Safety and Climate Smart Agriculture Financing to Food Security

Mr. Suriyan Vichitlekarn, MI Executive Director, called for increased joint efforts in strengthening agricultural food safety standards and systems to boost market competitiveness and make more sustainable, inclusive, and resilient cross-border trade activities in the GMS at an ADB online meeting. The event drew together over 30 experts, including the GMS Working Group on Agriculture focal points and development leaders to build consensus on priority areas that will support the Strategy for Promoting Safe and Environment-Friendly Agro-Based Value Chains in the GMS and Siem Reap Action Plan. [Read more.](#)



MI and TICA Highlight Gender Balance for Sustainable Development

In its third run, MI and TICA brought over 80 participants from 19 countries to discuss ways forward in advancing gender-sensitive public policies and services to increase women’s participation in government and to enable women’s fair access to public decision-making at an online training program on “Gender Equality and Women Empowerment: Sharing Good Practices and Experiences.” [Read more.](#)


UPCOMING ACTIVITIES
JULY
12 - 23

Online Regional Training on Promoting Gender Equality and Women Empowerment in the Lancang-Mekong Region: Sharing Good Practices and Experiences

**14 - 13
AUG**

The Korea-Mekong Training and Mentoring Program on Smart Sustainable Tourism and Business Outreach

For more information on upcoming MI activities, visit <https://cutt.ly/jkh20aS>



MEKONG INSTITUTE



GENDER EQUALITY IS A SHARED RESPONSIBILITY



In July 2021, Mekong Institute (MI) and the Thailand International Cooperation Agency (TICA) rolled out its third international online training program on “Gender Equality and Women Empowerment: Sharing Good Practices and Experiences” as part of continuing efforts to enhance governance and accountability towards gender balance.

Over 80 participants from Algeria, Bahrain, Botswana, Cambodia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guyana, Indonesia, Iraq, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritius, Morocco, Myanmar, Niger, Pakistan, Peru, the Philippines, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Timor-Leste, Turkey, Uzbekistan, and Vietnam participated—making the 10-day activity among the highest-attended online programs in MI’s history.

Get to know how the gender development sessions were received by Ms. Sandra Thompson, Prevention Programmes and Education Officer of the Gender Affairs Bureau at Guyana’s Ministry of Human Services and Social Security, by reading her interview.

1. How will the program help promote gender balance in your country?

Fresh perspectives and approaches from Thailand and those from the other 25 countries widened my gender lens. Recommendations that are applicable in my country such as setting up sounding boards and accountability mechanisms will influence the reconstruction of our training manuals and department practices.



2. What were the core lessons you learned from the training program?

The importance of intersectionality and women's participation in the development of policies were my key takeaways. I also had a deeper understanding that lasting sustainable development can only be secured if gender development is applied and embedded across all spheres of our socioeconomic efforts.

3. How will these learnings be applied in your line of work?

From the sessions, I have learned to pay closer attention to gender balance in the strategic design of our programs. This includes requiring fair male and female representation in project implementation, as well as women's active participation in the development of their communities. Overall, it has made me be more considerate of and responsive to the perspectives, interests, and needs of both women and men.

4. What do you think are the strengths of the MI and TICA program?

MI and TICA's ability to draw in a diverse and multi-sectoral group of international participants is a strong advantage. This allowed us to exchange and learn more about the ideas, experiences, and approaches of others.

5. How do you plan to transfer the knowledge you gained to others in Guyana?

A detailed report of MI and TICA's sessions will be shared to my colleagues. I will also speak of my experience with the hope of raising the discussion on our shared responsibility in promoting and protecting gender equality.

