

■ TRAININGS/WORKSHOPS/SLV ACTIVITIES

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Poverty Alleviation and Sustainable Rural Development



A 12-day regional training course on Poverty Alleviation and Sustainable Rural Development was organized at MI starting August 1, with support from the Foreign Affairs Office of The People's Government of Yunnan Province of the People's Republic of China. The course contributed to the development of the professional capacity of government officials and other relevant stakeholders from GMS countries, to assist in sustainable development and poverty alleviation interventions to improve living conditions in rural communities. [More>>](#)

First Governing Board Meetings for 2016

MI held its first Governing Board Meetings for 2016 on August 27 and 28 at MI Annex. The Steering Committee and Council members reviewed MI's performance in the first half of 2016. The meetings were chaired by the respective chairmen – Dr. Narongchai Akrasanee for the Steering Committee, and H.E. Mr. Tun Tun Naing for the Council.



20th Anniversary of Mekong Institute

MI concluded the commemoration of its 20th anniversary with a colorful event on August 28, 2016 at MI Annex. Close to 200 distinguished guests attended the celebrations including Rt. Hon. James Bolger, the 35th Prime Minister of New Zealand, and MI's Governing Board Members and development partners. [More>>](#)



Mekong Forum 2016

Mekong Forum 2016 was successfully held at Pullman Hotel, Khon Kaen on August 29, 2016. During the one-day event, participants shared stories and discussed innovative ideas on the role of development partners, the changing needs of the GMS countries, and ways to achieve enhanced regional integration and promote more equitable and inclusive growth in the GMS. [More>>](#)



■ TRAININGS/ WORKSHOPS/ ACTIVITIES

Enhancing Cross-Border Trade Facilitation toward AEC 2015



A two-day Synthesis and Evaluation (S&E) workshop under the modular training program on “Enhancing Cross-Border Trade Facilitation toward AEC 2015” was held from August 3 to 4 at MI. The workshop was funded by Thailand International Cooperation Agency (TICA).

[More>>](#)

The Impact of Climate Change on Environment and Natural Resource Management in the Agricultural Sector

In collaboration with the Monitoring Office of Program 165 (Vietnam), MI organized a two-week training program on “The Impact of Climate Change on Environment and Natural Resource Management in Agricultural Sector” from August 9 to 19 at MI. [More>>](#)



Training Needs Assessment for Food Safety Project



With the support of the New Zealand Aid Program (NZAP), MI conducted a training needs assessment for the Food Safety Project in four countries – Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Vietnam from August 9 to 25. The activity was led by two New

Zealand Food Safety experts.

Six training topics were identified to address needs in the four countries: (1) Agri-chemical management – tools to create change; (2) Postharvest management from food safety perspective; (3) Tools to achieve food safety GMP, GHP; (4) Food Safety in the market place, domestic distribution and export; (5) Consumer and food safety understanding; and (6) Tools to effect food safety: Verification, Certification and Traceability.

Good Agricultural Practices (GAP)

From August 15 to 26, MI organized a training program on Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) sponsored by Thailand International



Cooperation Agency (TICA). The course aimed to enhance Laos government officials’ capacity in promoting GAP to ensure the free movement of safe, healthy, and quality food in the region. The participants had the opportunity to learn from Thailand’s practices and experiences related to GAP application in GAP certified fields in Khon Kaen and Nakhon Ratchasima.

EWEC (SDC) PROJECT ACTIVITIES

5th Session of Training Series on GMP Standardization

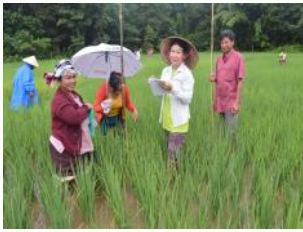


The 5th session of the Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) training series was conducted at the Department of Industrial Commerce in Khammouane, Lao PDR on August 9, 2016. As part of the GMP standardization in the rice sector which has been implemented since February 2016, the workshop was attended by 30 participants from different sectors such as rice mills, hotels, restaurants and government. The objectives of the workshop were to report on the progress of GMP standardization, disseminate information, and

provide updates on the certification processes, as well as to distribute GMP application signboards to pilot rice mills.

■ EWEC (SDC) PROJECT ACTIVITIES

2nd Session of Training on IPM: Study on Biodiversity in the Paddy Fields, Snails and Fruit Composting



The 2nd session of the training on Integrated Pest Management (IPM) was conducted from August 10 to 12, 2016 in three districts: Ban Nongping of Nhommlath District, Ban Dongtai of Thakhek District, and Ban PhakEtou of Nongbok District. Members of the four pilot GAP groups attended. The training provided farmers with information about the biodiversity in the paddy fields to build up their awareness and knowledge of predators and parricides, as well as about how to make compost by using snails, vegetables and fruits.

Mid-Term Assessment for Season 2015

The mid-term assessment for the 2015 season was conducted from August 6 to 16, 2016, by external consultants in the five townships in the Kayin State where the project is being implemented.



Learning Moments among Farmer Groups



On August 16, 2016, a meeting at the Khe Sanh Township, Huong Hoa District of Quang Tri in Vietnam was joined by 63 participants from the Khe Sanh Coffee Association (KCA), farmer groups, enterprises, VNFO, and representatives of the EMEE Project of World Vision. The meeting offered opportunities to share information and learn from one another about the operation and management of the farmer groups, as well as how to access the linkage models in an effective manner. Both the farmer groups and enterprises helped develop an action plan which now serves as the basis for linkage dialogues between both sides in the upcoming crop-year.

Dialogue between Farmers and Experts

A dialogue between farmers and experts on the theme “Khe Sanh Coffee – A Journey of Branding Development”, was held on August 24, 2016 at the Tan Hop Commune, Huong Hoa District of Quang Tri, Vietnam. The dialogue aimed to create a forum for coffee farmers to communicate directly with experts in different fields: policymaking, credit provision, agricultural extension, and market information, among others. The farmers benefited from the experts’ answers while the latter gained a better understanding of the farmers’ needs. Both sides now have a stronger commitment to achieve high quality production and sustainable development in the sector, thus contributing to the development of Khe Sanh Coffee.



■ WHAT'S NEW

Visit of Sophia University, Japan

On August 25, an MI team led by Mr. Madhurjya Kumar Dutta, Director of Trade & Investment Facilitation Department (TIF) and Mr. Nguyen Hung Cuong, Director of East West Economic Corridor (EWEC) Project welcomed Dr. Yasushi Hirosato, Director of the Center for Global Discovery from the Faculty of Global Studies, Sophia University, Japan. MI and Sophia University shared experiences and exchanged information on projects in the Southern Economic Corridor (SEC) and EWEC. On March 2017, a Structured Learning Visit for Sophia University students will be conducted to enable them to explore and learn more about EWEC.



■ WHAT'S NEW

Interview with NBT Channel



MI Executive Director Dr. Watcharas Leelawath gave an interview on Mekong Forum 2016 to National Broadcasting Services of Thailand (NBT channel) on August 26, 2016.

Executive Director attended the 71st Anniversary of the National Day of the S.R. of Vietnam

MI Executive Director Dr. Watcharas Leelawath attended the 71st Anniversary of the National Day of the S.R. of Vietnam reception hosted by H.E. Mr. Nguyen Ngoc Son, Consul General, at the Consulate General of Khon Kaen on August 31, 2016.



■ UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Regional Workshop on the Control of Dragon Fruit Diseases	September 4-8
SME Cluster Development and Export Consortia Formation	September 12-17
ASEAN Economy Community (AEC): Sharing Perspective, Knowledge and Experience	September 19-20
Power Dispatching, Operation and Control for GMS Power Grid	September 19-29
Planning and Implementing Contract Farming Operations	September 20-23



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